21 March 2013

Celebrating 40 Years of MECS

Jo & Roger re-enact the flag raising ceremony in memory of the official school opening 40 years ago.

135 York Road Mount Evelyn 3796 - www.mecs.vic.edu.au - 03 9738 6000 - 03 9738 6001 (fax) - Absent student: 03 9513 1561
From the Principal

What does it take to be a pioneer?

Some wonderful events occurred over the past weekend. To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of MECS, we held a re-enactment of the official MECS opening ceremony of 1973. Past staff and students came from all around the country to participate, and it was a moving tribute to those that had ‘gone before’ and a reminder that many people had sacrificed much to see MECS flourish and grow.

It all could have been quite different. At the dinner which followed the re-enactment, we heard from those involved in MECS at the very beginning, and were reminded that although there were many ‘ups’ there were also some ‘downs’ throughout the school’s early history. There were financial worries, and we heard of the wise decisions that were made about subdividing land and keeping the school in a prudent financial position.

We heard from those involved in the ‘birthing’ of new schools that started out in a classroom at MECS: Mount District Christian School, which continues to flourish today and Ringwood Christian School which struggled to find a home, and was eventually folded back into MECS; there were decisions about continuing onto Middle School and then Senior School; the Middle School needed to grow so double streams were created in the Primary and Middle School. Without the wisdom of those on the board, the school may not have grown enough to sustain itself financially. There were challenges over the freedom to employ only Christian teachers – a challenge which we may face again.

What does it take to be a pioneer?

Pioneering takes a lot of hard work, and a dogged determination to keep going in the face of adversity. Throughout the weekend, we heard recounts of directional and philosophical differences, such as the uniform debate, and how much Christian teachers should be paid. These could have been sticking points. Determination requires a single mindedness at times, to follow what is the right path at the right time. Through committed

The MDCS-MECS connection reveals the gracious hand of God- honouring schooling which honours and reveres His name. Praise be to God!

However, without the vision and commitment of MECS, MDCS would not exist in its present form, if at all. A review of the MDCS-MECS connection reveals the gracious hand of God honouring schooling which honours and reveres His name. Praise be to God!

Ian was the founding Principal of Mountain District Christian School (1979-1988). This article originally appeared in the MECS 25th Anniversary Yearbook 1998.
From the Principal

Continued...

prayer, the early pioneers sought to understand the direction that God had planned for the school and the steps that were required to make it happen. Pioneers have a quiet courage, to stand firm when the going gets rough. I remember hearing about the early Centre Trips of MECS; those first buses that certainly did not have occupational health and safety stamped on them. A group of intrepid teachers had the courage to realise that integral curriculum, not just integrated, was the basis for curriculum at MECS. They took these groups of students to uncharted areas to connect with a marginalised group of people (Warlpiri people) in the Northern Territory, in a way that was unheard of both back then and now. Despite many challenges, teachers courageously forged on and the Centre Trip is a beacon of integral learning that still continues at MECS and is into its 33rd year.

Pioneers show integrity. The truth about people can be seen by how they stand and act when no one is watching. What I found staggering was that MECS had, in effect, been an entity that had started years before the official opening in 1973. To hear the stories of men and women, giving a shilling a week or whatever they had, for something that they didn’t even think would happen in time for their own children, was testament to how passionately they believed in the importance of Christian Education. They prayed, constantly and fervently and when the school opened, they continued to pray. Over the weekend, I marvelled at their stories and was humbled by their selfless response to the vision that they believed would last for not just one but many generations. I honour that commitment as we stand strong on their example.

Finally, our pioneers had an innate knowledge of a calling to start a Christian school. In Proverbs it states ‘without a vision, the people perish’. They had a shared understanding, despite differences, discussions and sometimes stubborn arguments, of a vision that remained clear in their heads and deeply rooted in their hearts.

I have only been at MECS for fifteen years. I didn’t attend a Christian school and I’ve never attended a Reformed church. But I’ve caught the passion. We have the task of teaching our students to seek God’s kingdom in all of life, and of uncovering the gifts in each child that has been wonderfully made in His image.

Praise God for the early pioneers.

Class of 2012 - Destinations

The Year 12 Class of 2012: Possible Destinations in 2013*

Since 17 December, when many an anxious MECS Year 12 student awaited the SMS bearing his or her results to arrive right at 7:00 am, much has happened. These results, in particular the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) were used by VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) to place students in tertiary courses. Last year 39 Year 12 students studied for the VCE at MECS and all successfully achieved their certificates. Of this class, 29 applied for tertiary courses and of this group, 26 were successful. Here is the list of all of their destinations this year.

*Please note that some students have deferred their tertiary course and are working as part of a gap year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Destination 2013</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sascha</td>
<td>Exercise and Sport Science.</td>
<td>Victoria University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathanael</td>
<td>Youth Ministry Training</td>
<td>Youth Dimension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isobel</td>
<td>Disciple Training School</td>
<td>YWAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie</td>
<td>Looking for work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coralea</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>Engineering-Electrical/Electronics (Ass. Deg.)</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simone</td>
<td>Working</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany</td>
<td>Youth Work</td>
<td>Box Hill Institute of TAFE</td>
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<td>Stephanie</td>
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<td>Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebekah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miriam</td>
<td>Legal and Dispute Studies</td>
<td>RMIT University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandy</td>
<td>Teacher Education-Early Childhood and Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taminka</td>
<td>Arts/Law</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Diploma of Tertiary Studies</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly</td>
<td>Visual Arts and Design</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Looking for work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Game Art (Animation)</td>
<td>Academy of Interactive Entertainment</td>
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<td>Billy</td>
<td>Engineering-Associate Degree</td>
<td>Swinburne University of Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>Commerce/Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharayah</td>
<td>Cert III Early Childhood Studies</td>
<td>Morrison House</td>
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<td>Mary</td>
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<td>Hannah</td>
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<td>Sebastian</td>
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<td>Tegan</td>
<td>Working in the entertainment industry</td>
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<td>Emily</td>
<td>Diploma of Tertiary Studies</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Legal Practice (Paralegal) Associate Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick</td>
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<td>Rachael</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>University Of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>Looking for work</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine</td>
<td>Business/Visual Arts</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayley</td>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Looking for work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annaliese</td>
<td>Diploma of Business</td>
<td>Swinburne TAFE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are grateful to God for His ongoing provision for the class of 2012. We encourage you to pray for these young people as they face the new challenges of work and tertiary study (this is the second week of many University courses).

Dr Roger
VCE Coordinator
MECS Notes

School Photo Day is next Monday, 25 March 2013

Due to using a different company for the school photos this year, students will now need to bring their individual envelope (with money enclosed, if paying by cash) on the day of the photos. However, students in Primary and Middle School can bring their envelopes in early, and hand them to their class teacher, who will look after them until photo day if need be. Senior school students can either bring their envelope on Photo Day or hand directly to Rosalie in the Senior School Office. To ensure any money or credit card information remains secure please do not leave the envelope sitting in Rosalie’s tray.

If students do not bring their envelope and money in time, they will still get their photos taken but there is an additional $20 late fee on top of the cost. Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request, and will need to be brought to school on Photo Day by the eldest child or handed to their class teacher to hold until Photo Day. Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes.

**If your children are going to be having a family photo, please make them aware of this, and let them know that they will need to go straight to the Pump Room at the start of lunch time on Photo Day.**

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact the Main Office or MSP Photography.

Please Note:- In the email sent out to parents regarding School Photo Day, we had written that students in ‘Year 7-10’ will receive a student ID card, but it’s actually ‘Year 7-12’ that will be receiving these.

Absentee Line

If your child is absent from school, please call the absentee line on 9513 1561 and state:

- Your child’s name
- Class name (eg: Possums - Kinder, MPA or 9JW)
- Reason for being absent

Thanks for your help.

New Teacher for JPS

Early next term, we will be saying farewell (at least for now) to Ange, as she heads off into the new life of Motherhood. Whilst we will miss her greatly, we will be welcoming Susanna who will be teaching JPS. Susanna has been teaching Primary School age children in Thailand and brings many interesting experiences along with her. We look forward to welcoming her to the Primary School.

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Year 9 City Camp Report

In Week 5 of Term 1, all the Year 9s went on City Camp. There were six groups staying at three churches in the suburbs of East Melbourne, Brunswick and Hawthorn. I was in Sue’s group and we were staying at the Hawthorn church. This meant that we were the furthest from the CBD (Central Business District) where we spent most of our time.

Our group had a lot of interesting experiences, including half of us missing our stop on a tram and some of us getting quite scared on the Eureka Skydeck. We visited many places like the State Library, the Melbourne Magistrates Court, the Royal Botanical Gardens, Queen Vic Markets, the NGV (National Gallery of Victoria) and many more. It was really interesting looking around the Queen Vic Markets because I got to watch the stand keepers and customers interact, argue and bargain. I also really enjoyed the Royal Botanical Gardens and getting to know everyone in my group who turned out to be a great bunch of people who I thoroughly enjoyed spending my camp experiences with.

On Wednesday we split up into what was called ‘interest’ groups, where we went to places we were interested in. My group went to ACM (Australian Centre for the Moving Image) but some groups went to look at the homelessness in the city and discovered what a big problem it really is. Other groups went to look at Street Art, the MCG and a few other places. We also used a lot of public transport and one of my friends hated the trams so much that he would spend ages trying to find an alternate route and one night when a tram had broken down and we needed to take the bus he was so happy. Overall it was one of the best camps I’ve ever been on and would love to do it again.

Nick, Year 9

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Year 8 Inspiring Girls Camp Reports

On 4-8 March, the Year 8 girls went on Inspiring Girls camp. The first two days were spent at school doing fun activities such as canvas painting, rock climbing and journals.

The best activity on camp was the session we had on Body Image. It was very interesting, especially when we watched a short film called ‘Plastic.’ I also found it very interesting to learn about photoshopping of images in magazines.

I wasn’t really personally challenged in any specific area, but probably the most difficult was the body image session because it was difficult to get your brain around how much the media manipulates images.

I didn’t really make any new friendships however I did get closer to my friends that I don’t normally get to hang around with. I didn’t really get a chance to work with anyone that I didn’t know, but I had lots of fun working with and getting to know more people.

Joslyn, Year 8

The best activity was done on Year 8 Inspiring Girls camp was the session on Body Image. I loved learning about the Barbie dolls and how their body proportions aren’t real. I also learnt how much images in the magazines are altered by computer.

I was personally challenged with not fidgeting or talking. It didn’t work very well because no matter how interesting the subject area was, I was still tempted to talk to friends.

Natasha, Year 8

The best activity on Year 8 Inspiring Girls camp was probably the Body Image session we did because we got to see videos of what happens when images are photoshopped.

I personally was challenged when I had to mix with people I usually wouldn’t work with. I think I formed new friendships just by talking with people during the activities. My highlight of the camp was probably the sessions we did and the free time, where we just got to chill.

Jade, Year 8
**MECS Notes**

**Drama for Everyday Life**

Drama for Everyday Life is a program that uses drama, games and role play to teach social skills and self-confidence in a safe and creative small group environment (4 or 5 students), and has been offered at MECS for the past 10 years. Parents, teachers and students themselves anecdotally report a significant improvement in social skills, behaviour management and confidence.

In Term 2, a 7 week program will be offered, commencing Thursday 2 May and continuing on 9, 23, 30 May, and 6, 13, 20 June at a cost of $125. Enrolment forms will be sent home to current participants and are available at the Main Office for new enrolments.

**Managing Dyslexia Course**

Three 2 Hour sessions, 7-9pm, Karralyka Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood.

18 April - Management strategies at home and in the classroom.

2 May - Building Resilience

23 May - Bridging the Gap.

Communicating and Collaborating.

No Cost but bookings are essential. To book contact Cherie at cmesserie@oein.org.au. Include name and surname, contact details and if you are a parent or educator and the age of the child with the learning difficulty. For more information ring Cherie.

**Congratulations Lanita**

Over the recent long weekend Lanita (VCE 3/4) attended the National Orienteering League competition in South Australia. This also functioned partly as a selection trial for the Junior Orienteering League competition in the Czech Republic (9.7 km) component of the competition for junior elite (17-20 year olds) and if she performs well at the final trials in Bendigo over the Easter break she will be selected to compete for Australia. We would like to congratulate Lanita on her marvellous achievements in orienteering (‘cunning running’) so far and offer her our support for the final trials.

**Dr Roger**

VCE Coordinator

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**40th Anniversary Celebrations**

What a weekend!

This weekend we celebrated with our founders, early staff and students and long term members of the MECS community. It was a marathon of three events, starting with the re-enactment of the 1973 Opening Ceremony. An afternoon tea under marquees on the oval was derailed by some wild weather, which was fairly dramatic! – A small band of people raced to take down the marquees in the rain and move the afternoon tea into the gym.

With the formalities of the afternoon behind us, founders and key people had an opportunity to reflect and share memories over dinner, and give God the glory for his blessings on MECS over the past 40 years.

On Sunday morning a celebratory Church service was held at the Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, another wonderful time of reflecting and praising God. A Board Chair from each decade shared a short summary of their time on the board, Principal Paul Oldman did the Bible reading and we had a 3-part sermon from 3 MECS Principals - Jack, Stewart and Martin.

There are many people who helped make the weekend a success: Pete & Steve (and team), Pippi (chief decorator), Karen for amazing catering, Colin & Paul who had MC roles, Heather and Amanda who took hundreds of photos, Natasha, Chris, Fiona who all chipped in at various times. Congratulations to the great Year 9 girls who did a wonderful job waitressing and lots of others who contributed, and to the Middle School students who helped with the pack up on Monday. Above all, God was honoured, the founders felt valued - they came away feeling that their passion for Christian education was continuing on, that the next generation is catching the vision and that MECS will continue to ‘Seek the Kingdom of God in Education’.

**Nicole**

Community Relations

40th Anniversary continued on page 6.

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**Staff First Aid**

Many of the staff at MECS have recently completed or updated their First Aid training. We usually have over 60% of our staff trained in Level 2 First Aid.

Our own Peter is now qualified to be a First Aid trainer and will be conducting First Aid and CPR training throughout the year for staff and others from the school community.

**Melinda**

First Aid Officer

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**Melinda**

First Aid Officer
A New Perspective

As a relatively new person to MECS it was great to come to the 40th birthday celebration and see the history of MECS and learn how it all began from the people who made it all happen. Learning about the sacrifices the founding families made so that MECS would become a reality makes me extremely grateful to these people who have been so faithful to the vision God placed on their hearts. I had the privilege of personally getting to talk to some of the founding families. It was a great to hear the reminiscent stories, have some laughs, but above all it was awesome to see the vibrant passion for this great school has remained as alive and strong from one generation to the next. I am looking forward to enjoying many more great years as being a part of the community of Mount Evelyn Christian School. Thank you Founding Families!

Ali
MECS parent

A note from the editor

There will be much more on the 40th Anniversary events depicted here in the next ReConnect which will be produced on April 18. We hope you will enjoy the pages of colour photos you will find there.

Also I would especially like to thank Nicole who headed up the team that put together three wonderful events in one weekend! Well done Nicole.

Heather
Newsletter Editor
Year 7-10 Tribal Swimming Sports

It was not raining or hailing or snowing. It was not 40 degrees or blowing a gale. However, it was not warm (especially when you consider all the warm weather we have had!). Yet our brave competitors jumped in and swam for their teams. Our tribal swimming sports was held at Croydon Outdoor Pool.

The overall results were:

Wirri (Blue) 1st by 2 pts
Warlipa (White) 2nd
Walya (Red) 3rd
Warlu (Gold) 4th

Our Interschool Swimming team is made up of the winners of events (except relay) in this carnival and will be reported on next week. Thanks to the reliable Year 10s who helped run the day and to all staff and tribal leaders for their efforts. Well done.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
**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.

**Microwave for Sale**
This much loved Panasonic Convection Microwave Model NN-CD997S will not fit into the ‘microwave space’ in our new home. The measurements are (W) 62.6cm x (D) 37.6cm x (H) 50.1cm. Please see all the features and benefits online. It is in excellent condition and is a current model which retails at $1099. My price to you is $550. Please contact.

**Outside Setting for Sale**
Six sided table, tempered glass and sturdy aluminium frame, with 6 high backed chairs. All in neutral tonings. Very comfortable chairs with no rips or tears. Table measures 1580 across from corner to corner or 1400 across from flat side to flat side. Includes lazy susan which needs a re-stain or paint. $150, call.

**Fridge for Sale**
This fabulous 600L stainless steel fridge/freezer will not fit in our new home. It is an Electrolux current model EQE6007SB and is just over 4 years old. Fantastic fridge/freezer which measures Height: 1720mm Width: 890 mm Depth: 685 mm Depth:818 mm (including doors). Check out all the features online. For sale at bargain price of $1650. Phone.

**Mooroolbark Festival**
Fri 22 & Sat 23 March.
Friday Talent Quest, 7.30pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre, $5 at the door (includes supper).
Sat Festival, 9.30am-4pm. Red Earth Park & Mooroolbark Community Centre. Free Entry. Street parade, departs 10am from Station St to Red Earth Park.

**Mt Evelyn Auskick Centre**
Visit the Auskick website at www.auskick.com.au to register and pay (not available at the ground)
Come down to the Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve (Lower Oval) on 13 April, present your receipt of payment to receive your Auskick Backpack full of goodies and start the fun! Program starts at 9.00am am to 10.30am, please bring your own water bottles and footy boots. Open to all children from 4 years and over (usually to grade 3) and parents are invited and encouraged to participate.

For more details contact Carmel, Co-ordinator.

**Seville Ranges Youth Girls Football Club**
Players needed, girls ages 13-18. ‘Fun, fitness and friendship’. Please contact Carol.
www.sevilleranges.sportingpulse.net.

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

**Dog & House Sitter required**
April 6-15. Yarra Valley area contact.

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**NOTICES SENT HOME THIS WEEK**
(can also be downloaded from website)

- Kinder Connections No 2
- March Working Bee Letter
- JPS New Teacher Announcement
- MECS School Photo Day Information
- Year 10-12 Indoor Sports