First General Assembly for 2014

Imagine last Friday, the College Gym with 1142 students, our staff and the honoured guests and their parents and friends? It was a big space filled to the brim. However, it was filled to the brim with goodwill and pride in the achievements of our highest VCE achievers for 2013. The student body was magnificent in their attention throughout this first assembly to start the new year and it was such a positive occasion for the whole College.

Claire Youren in her first duty as College Captain gave the ‘Acknowledgment of Country’ and introduced Year 11 student, Sarah Ware for her beautiful singing of Advance Australia Fair. James Lowe, College Captain, invited me to speak and my focus was on not only welcoming back our highest achievers, but speaking to the assembled College about the importance of reflecting back as we make a new start in 2014. I spoke of the fine work of our teachers during 2013, in examining all aspects of our College performance over the previous four years and how parents and students also contributed to the Self-Evaluation leading up to the December 5th Review day. This was a valuable time of insight and feedback. I explained to our students, like them the College received its report card at the end of the process and we are very proud of...
our performance. This year is a new beginning and the challenges for teachers and the leaders of the College, starting with myself, is to set a course of improvement that will challenge and support every child in the learning and prepare them for a future beyond the College.

So from explaining what the College Review means for the College in terms of fresh starts, I explained to students that the process of beginning afresh or changing directions is to know where you want to go and the College has a clear vision of what our goals and targets are. For students, it is also important to use the start of the year as a good time to reflect back over the previous year and to consider the options on offer. For students there are so many choices; a dizzying number and this in itself can be a source of confusion. It is important to sift through all the options and try to work out what is a real possibility compared to that which is fanciful. I challenged all students across the College, especially our Year 12 students, to consider where they might be in the first four weeks of the new year after VCE. Is it a university or a TAFE or an apprenticeship or the workforce? Are they going to be a high achiever? The reality is that each student has to think long and hard about the destination they are after and how they will make it happen. I want students actively enquiring about a future post—VCE destination from Year 7 up. It is about their possible pathways. I do not want students passively just sitting back wishing and hoping.

I concluded with the notion that at this early stage of the year, we can look forward with anticipation and be excited by it. The Austrian Romantic poet, Rilke very beautifully wrote of anticipation “And now we welcome the New Year, full of things that have never been” and I wished the College an exciting year of discovery. It was then a great pleasure to welcome our 2013 students who achieved in the Top 2% of the State: our Dux, Tong Tong (Yolanda) Luo and our Third Highest Achiever, Emily Muir (unfortunately the Second Top Student, Yan Shen Ang is still in China). Yolanda achieved 95.5 and the subjects that she studied to achieve her results were: Chemistry 43, English 45, Specialist Maths 40, Maths Methods 43 and LOTE (Japanese) 41. Yolanda has been accepted into The University of Melbourne to begin Biomedicine but her ultimate aim is to be a Doctor of Medicine. Yan Shen Ang studied Chemistry 37, English 43, LOTE (Chinese) 43, Maths Methods 37, Specialist Maths 36 and Physics 37 to receive an ATAR score of 99 and he is about to take up studies in Commerce also at Melbourne University. Emily Muir’s destination is also Melbourne University and her ATAR of 98 has enabled her to begin a double degree in Arts/Law. Emily’s VCE studies included: Biology 39, English 46, History 45, Legal Studies 43, Further Maths 40 and Psychology 44. The top three these students are presented with a quality reference book and a certificate and as Yan Shen Ang could not be with us, he will receive his at a later date. Both girls spoke affectionately of their time in the College and of their teachers. Yolanda explained that when she first came to the College, she did not speak English. What a remarkable journey of scholarship to go from that starting point to receive the highest academic honour of the College! Emily spoke with much emotion about the importance of the support of her best mates throughout her time in the College and her teachers. She gave valuable insight into what she did to keep on top of the workload and the little tips that helped her effectively revise and keep positive self-talk throughout her Year 12 year. They were impressive speeches.

Mr Greg Lee, Domain Leader for the Visual Arts, congratulated the Year 12 Art and Design Award Winner, Elizabeth (Izzie) Corr and acknowledged her excellence in Studio Arts -Textiles. Izzie’s beautiful dress designs were displayed on the big screen and students could not help but wonder at her talent. Izzie also addressed the College, speaking of her passion in textile design and how she will now study Fashion Design at the Melbourne Fashion Institute. She thanked all of her teachers but her special thanks went to Mrs Jennifer McKinnis who inspired her. These three outstanding girls were articulate, passionate about their future directions and very grateful to the College for the opportunities they have had to achieve their best. From these girls, we had the pleasure to introduce and present a certificate of recognition to each of the 90+ (or those in the top 10% of the State). All but three returned for the presentation. It is such a pleasure to give these ex-students the praise they richly deserve. It is important for the student body to know that they too can achieve the heights if they put their minds to it and work hard.

After these presentations, Music Captain Paul Kascamanidis introduced the Senior Strings conducted by Mrs Sarah Williams who played, ‘Mythos’. Their performance had the student audience spell-bound. Assistant Principal John Munro, then had the happy task to introduce the new Year 12 College Leaders for 2014 and they were formally inducted with their badges. This was time for Claire and James to give their first address to the College. They thanked our ex-students and wished them well for their university pathways. They welcomed the Year 7s and James reflected that it did not seem so long ago that he was just starting out in the College. Claire and James spoke of the upcoming Swimming sports and the importance of supporting your House and
they urged students to have a go at the lots of things on offer through the year. They warmly spoke to their fellow students and congratulated the Middle Years Leaders who also received their badges. James Lowe challenged me to form a Principal’s Eleven for the Annual Cricket Match but this year I got in first and emphatically said I would not sing at an assembly as I had last year! On no account was James to ambush me with a date. Any future consequences for the captain of the losing side will be by negotiation and he and Claire were happy with that. All I can say is that They warmly spoke to their the teachers better win!

The Drama and Music Captains, Chelsea Tsaparis and Paul Kascamanidis, spoke of the rehearsals already taking place to ensure this year’s production of ‘Hairspray’ will be ‘the best ever yet’. They gave a synopsis of the story and explained that while the cast has been decided, interested students need to watch out for invitations to join the stage and technical crew. It is evident that there is already much energy being put into this show and we can all look forward with anticipation to ‘Hairspray’ in August. A new leadership position of Health and Well-Being was decided at the end of 2013 and Jack Kirkland is the inaugural captain. His portfolio is a broad one but he has lots of ideas and at the assembly, he asked students to approach him with theirs. Kate Indian and Rowan Weaver, the SRC Captains, promoted the SRC Elections and since then, the two representatives from each level have been elected. They will be inducted at the next General Assembly. They introduced the Social Justice Captains, Craig Whittingham and Louisa Harwood from Year 11, who outlined their role and the targets they have for Social Justice this year. They also promoted their first fund-raiser which will be selling icy-poles at the Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 4th March.

The four sets of House Captains paraded in their House colours and took to the microphone to remind everyone to support their House by signing up for the big swim. A vibrant multimedia presentation by Mr David Antrobus reminded everyone of the fun had by all at last year’s carnival. James concluded the morning, thanking our high-achievers and their parents for attending and also reiterating the importance of representing Houses next Tuesday.

This first assembly was a credit to the Year 12 College Leadership Team and again, I wish to comment on the excellent attentiveness of all students across the College. Staff, students, ex-students and their parents could all leave the assembly with a sense of pride and the sense of a new beginning.

Swimming Carnival - Tuesday, 4th March:
This coming Tuesday, we are all set for a great whole-school Swimming Carnival at the Balwyn Pool. Parents need to understand that attendance at this event is not optional and is not a School Free day for students who do not wish to swim. There will be plenty of other activities such as beach volleyball and bocce for students to get involved in and earn House points. Any student absent on the day must have authorisation from a parent. It is not OK to be away! It is however, an early dismissal day and the bus lines have been notified.

For the parents of Year 7s and new students, our students do dress up in their House colours and there are fashion-on-the-field awards. I would expect students to create their fun costumes for when they are not swimming. However, there are two things I must emphasise:

- I would expect all clothing and costumes to be decent. Anyone dressed inappropriately will be asked to cover up or be sent home.
- Students must not use face or body paint. The Bus Company will not permit anyone with face or body paint to board the buses.

Sun Safety: The College does its best to promote Sun Safety at the pool and teachers will be vigilant. However, students are to bring sunscreen, a hat and T-shirts to ensure that they have proper screening during the day. We hope our students have a grand day out with lots of competition, lots of House colour and lots of fun.

College Council Elections:
I would like to thank all those interested parents who have nominated for College Council and advise that nominations close on Monday 3rd of March, at 4pm. It is exciting to think that we will go to an election this year so if you are still considering nominating, please get your nomination in by 4pm on Monday. As in the spirit of all elections, candidates are invited to supply a brief statement about themselves and anything that may be relevant, in order to give the community some background about the people standing for election. The personal statement is to be no longer than 150 words. Mrs Deanne Ioannidis from the General Office will personally contact candidates to facilitate the ballot for the election. The ballot papers will be distributed on Friday 7th, March and the ballot will close at 4pm on Friday 14th, March. The declaration of the ballot will be Tuesday, 18th March.
Assistant Principal Report

SRC
Students over the last couple of weeks had the opportunity to nominate themselves or nominate another student to be the SRC Representative at their year level. At each year level we had many nominations to fill two places at each level. Last week students had the chance to vote for who they wished to have as their representative.
I would like to congratulate all the students who nominated and certainly hope all goes well for our future leadership team.
However we could only have two representatives from each year level. Listed below are our students who will form the SRC for 2014. I am looking forward to meeting and working with them all throughout the year.

SRC 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rowan Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Indian</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Georgia Rutland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Andrew Vassett</td>
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<td><strong>Communication Captains</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jake Waltrowicz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cara Lonergan</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Lachie Ioannidis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indianna Lowe</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Jeremy Morey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tatjana Todorovic</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Amanda Zhou</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connor Rutland</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ella Neale</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Our first meeting will be on Monday at lunchtime in the Conference room.

FUNDRAISER
After the hot and dry summer we have had it is time to bring some colour back to our gardens. Friends of Viewbank are having a “bulbs” fundraiser. So place your order for daffodils, Freesias, tulips, blue bells to name a few.

The fundraising catalogue from Bulbs direct fundraising is available by going to the following site [http://www.bulbsdirect.com.au/Fundraising/catalogues.htm](http://www.bulbsdirect.com.au/Fundraising/catalogues.htm) or from the General Office.

Your order with payment is to be returned to the College office. We will run the fundraiser for three weeks and then send the orders in and hopefully we will have them back late March early April.

There are over 30 varieties of bulbs that you can order from.

Bulbs Direct / Sticker Fun fundraising we have profits that vary. Each flowering bulb variety is sold in 3 sizes. The margin is now a flat 50% on all Bulbs Direct flowering bulbs and accessories. Sticker Fun products have a 25% products.

Maree Gaffney
Assistant Principal
Senior School News

VCE Parent Information Evening:
Years 11 and 12 parents and their students are invited to the VCE Parent Information Evening which is to be held on Wednesday March 12 in the College Library from 7:00pm. The seminar, presented by Elevate Education, will highlight ways in which parents can best support their child through the rigors of the VCE.

How do I help motivate my child?
How do I help my child improve their time management?
What are reasonable expectations?
How do I help my child deal with distractions?

All of these questions plus more will be addressed on the night.
An invitation has been sent home via email to all parents of VCE students. The reply slip can be left at the General Office. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you,
Sue Calder
Senior Years Leader
9091 3870
Dianne Allan
Yr 12 Well-being Leader
9091 3872
Samantha Sissons
Yr 11 Well-being Leader
9091 3873

Middle School News

IT'S GOAL SETTING WEEK!
BE SMART AND START THE YEAR ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Year’s 7-9 will next week be completing their goal setting on the Compass system in LOTE classes.
Parents can log in to see their child’s positive goals and realistic expectations for this semester. Review and discussion of the goals at home would certainly be beneficial and ensure all students are kept accountable.
The goal setting task can be found in the reports tab. Comments from parents regarding their child’s goals are very welcome.

Emma Ford

Year 8 News

YEAR 8 STUDY SKILLS MORNING
On Thursday the 13th March the Year Eights have an exciting incursion with the Elevate Education Presenters learning about effective Study Skills. The morning consists of a session on “Kick Start to Study Skills” and “Time Management, 4 steps to managing deadlines”. Students will attend the Study Skills sessions from periods 1 to 4 and Periods 5 and 6 will run as normal.

Andrew Blair
Year 8 Wellbeing Leader
blair.andrew.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
Grade 6 Parent Information Evening

Thursday 8th May, 2014

Viewbank College Tours:
Tours are led by the College’s Student Leaders, giving you the opportunity to see over the College, meet Teachers in various Learning Areas and gain an insight to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities available at the College.

Beginning at 5.30pm in the College Gymnasium
Last tour departs at 6.30pm*
*College tour times will be confirmed on our website

Official Presentations
College Gymnasium 7.30pm

Staff will be available for a short time in the College Library after the Official Presentations for any further questions.

Enhanced Acceleration Placement Testing

Testing for entry into the 2015 Viewbank College Enhanced Acceleration program will take place on Saturday 17th May 2014 at the College. Students will be required to sit 3 short tests to assess aptitude and ability in Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Literacy.

When: Saturday 17th May, 2014
Where: Viewbank College Library, Warren Road, Rosanna
Time: 10am till 12.30pm
Cost: $40 (non-refundable) plus 30 cent Trybooking fee

Applications are made via the Trybooking link http://www.trybooking.com/EFOQ found on our website www.viewbank.vic.edu.au
Applications close Tuesday 13th May. Late applications will not be accepted.
Senior School News

VCE Student Policy Handbook 2014:
Key aspects of the handbook were delivered to Years 11 and 12 students on Tuesday as part of their respective Study Skills Programs. Students were made aware of the important policies related to School-based Assessment, the (new) Victorian Baccalaureate, Attendance, SACs/SATs and what to do in the event of absence, Authentication and Special Provision. The Policy Handbook is designed to provide students and their parents with comprehensive information of the processes applied by Viewbank College to ensure consistency and fairness in the administration of the VCE. These guidelines are based on the ‘VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook 2014’, published by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).


It is essential that parents and students familiarise themselves with its contents. Any queries can be directed to either myself or Mrs Joanna Williams, the VCE Coordinator.

The Victorian (VCE) Baccalaureate:
Is a new form of recognition of achievement within the current senior secondary qualifications of the VCE. It is designed to provide recognition of and a further incentive for students to make the choice to undertake the demands of studying both a higher level of Maths and a language. It will be awarded to eligible students from 2014. To be eligible, students will be required to meet the requirements of Satisfactory Completion of Units 1 - 4 (see page 9) and:

- satisfactorily complete a Units 3 & 4 sequence from English or Literature or English Language with a minimum study score of 30 or English as an Additional Language (EAL) with a minimum study score of 33.
- satisfactorily complete a Units 3 & 4 sequence in either Maths Methods or Specialist Maths.
- satisfactorily complete a Units 3 & 4 sequence in a VCE Language other than English.

It appears from the show of hands Tuesday that a number of our students are eligible for this award.

Uniform:
Whilst students have worn the uniform well since the start of the year, we have noticed that with the change in weather, students have taken a little liberty with the uniform. It is perhaps timely to remind students that spray jackets (navy and maroon NOT navy and white) are an optional outer-garment and are ONLY to be worn on days of wet weather. The College blazer must be worn as the outer garment on all school occasions, to and from school, at level assemblies and whole school assemblies.

If a student needs to wear an item that is not part of the uniform, then a note of explanation is required. A Uniform Pass must be obtained before the start of the school day, either from an Assistant Principal or the Well-being Leader.

For the specific details of the Uniform Policy, please refer to the 2014 Student Planner or the College website.

Study Periods:
Students will be permitted to arrive late/leave early for SCHEDULED study periods. This does not include cancelled classes due to teacher absence. We understand that some students work better at home, away from the distractions they may encounter at school. Students are reminded to use their time at home constructively to reduce workload.

It is a student’s responsibility to ‘sign in’ at the kiosk when they arrive at the College or ‘sign out’ when they officially leave for the day. In the event of an emergency, it is imperative the College has accurate attendance records; therefore, students MUST ‘sign in/out’ by either swiping their card at the kiosk or at the Office with the Senior Years Student Support Officer.

Save the Date:
Wednesday March 12 – VCE Parent Information Evening. More information to follow soon.

Thank you,

Sue Calder
Senior Years Leader
9091 3870.
Have you got your costumes ready for the House Swimming Sports?

**HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS**
**TUESDAY 4TH MARCH, 2014**

The College will conduct its annual House Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 4th March at the Balwyn Pools (Boroondara Sports Complex, Belmore Road, Balwyn North) commencing at approximately 10.00am.

The pool is an outdoor pool, so please ensure your child/children bring sunscreen and other suitable sun protection, such as a hat, preferably in house colours, protective clothing and plenty of fluids for the day.

All students are expected to attend the Carnival and be aware of the following arrangements:

Students will attend Form Assembly at 9.00am, ready to leave by bus to Balwyn by 9.15am.

All students are encouraged to wear their House colours to support their House.

Balwyn Pool canteen will operate throughout the Carnival.

At the conclusion of the day, approximately 2.15pm, students will board the buses in their Form Assemblies.

Programs for the day’s events will be available at the College Office late next week. Additional programs will be available through House Coordinators.

Parents are most welcome to attend the Carnival.

Please be advised that no body paint is to be worn ~ this is the bus company directive.
Music News

New students
All new students have been allocated their instrument/voice and lessons have commenced. There are still some vacancies on some instruments. Please contact me if your son/daughter would like to enrol but hasn’t done so yet.

Viewbank College ensembles
We have sixteen different ensemble including bands, orchestras and choirs for students to get involved in at the College. Any students who are learning instruments or having singing lessons outside of school are welcome to join these groups. Enrolment forms and further information is available from the Music Office.

Second-hand instruments
If you have any instruments at home that are no longer needed that you would like to put on our second-hand instrument register, please bring the instrument in to school to be assessed by our music teachers and collect a second-hand instrument form. Forms should be filled out and returned to the Music Office.

Upcoming and Important Dates:

**Sunday 18 May** Autumn Brunch: School Gym – 10am-1pm
Junior, Intermediate, Senior concert bands, Jazz, Stage and Funk bands, Junior and Intermediate Strings.

**Thursday 22 May** Autumn Nights: 7.30pm Banyule Theatre – Intermediate and Senior choirs, guitar ensembles, Senior Strings, Flute ensemble, Double Bass ensemble.

**Monday 8 September** Jazz Night, Watsonia RSL

**Monday 13 October** Gala Concert, Plenty Ranges Conference Centre – All ensembles

Sarah Williams
Director of Music
swilliams@viewbank.vic.edu.au

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Uniform News

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The Second Hand Uniform Shop will next open on:
**Saturday 1st March, 2014**
10.00am to 12.00pm
(Gymnasium Cloakroom)
*Doors do not open until 10am*
(Cash Only – No EFTPOS)

VIEWBANK COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP
Open every Wednesday morning
(during school terms)
in R13
Hours: 8.15am - 9.00am

PE Top
Please note that the correct PE top is the burgundy coloured top with the gold Viewbank College logo, **not** the pale blue Viewbank College logo.
The Second Hand Uniform Shop will not accept PE Uniforms with the pale blue logo.
Sport News

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Victorian Track and Field Team. They will be competing in March at The National Junior Track and Field Championships in Sydney. Emmet Brasier, Cooper Owen, Chelsea Owen-Smith, Leah Wright and Lachlan Higgs. Good luck in Sydney.

Term 1 Sport Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th March</td>
<td>House Swimming Carnival Balwyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7th March</td>
<td>District swimming Doncaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th March</td>
<td>Year 7 Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 20th March</td>
<td>House Athletics Carnival - Doncaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st April</td>
<td>Northern Zone Swimming</td>
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Mark Eagling
Sport Manager
Sport@viewbank.vic.edu.au

Viewbank Health and Wellbeing

The first meeting of this dynamic and proactive group will be held on Monday evening, the 3rd March, in the conference room at the Viewbank College administration building. See below for our group’s ‘Mission Statement’ and see if you think that you have something to add as a teacher, student or Health Professional! We meet once per term every term. To RSVP or enquire contact Darren Murray (Health/Wellbeing Leader) at the College at murray.darren.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

Viewbank Health and Wellbeing Team Meetings:

| Term 1: Monday 3rd March  |
| Term 2: Wednesday 21st May |
| Term 3: Tuesday 29th July  |
| Term 4: Wednesday 22nd October |

Canteen

Canteen Volunteers for week of 3rd March to 7th March

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Helena Teo</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sharyn Collins</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Joanne Ross</td>
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Canteen Volunteers for week of 10th March to 14th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Amanda Dalyell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Aphro Papandreou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Michelle Selbie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Kathy Ralph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community News

Warringal Hawks Football Club under 19’s in the Heidelberg area are looking for players for 2014. Please contact Damian Moore either by email doogie_5_moore@hotmail.com or mobile 0438258788

Barista Basics—March 2014, Term 1

For more details ring PRACE on 9462 6077 or visit our website: www.prace.vic.edu.au

Japanese Spring Festival
In Partnership with the Banyule Council
Watsonia Library
Saturday 15 March
3.00pm – 6.00pm
Join us for a special afternoon to celebrate Japanese Culture: music – Taiko drumming, origami workshop, ikebana demonstrations, kimono dressing, spring displays and more!
Bookings 9435 2397