

VCAL
4LIFE



FRANKSTON MORNINGTON PENINSULA

VCAL VOICE 2021

VCAL 
VOICE

FRANKSTON & MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Front Cover produced by– Chloe Gee- McClelland College

Back cover produced by Delilah Smith– Westernport Secondary College

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Please enjoy reading about the year of VCAL in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. Thank you to all the VCAL students who worked on the reporting team and the contributors to your great year of accomplishments.

Useful Links



[FMP Jobs Talent Community](#)
free portal for jobs in Frankston and Mornington



[Home - FMP Youth Pathways](#)



<https://www.fmplen.com.au/vcal-awards>

Recording of the FMPVCAL Awards 2021

20 Years of Frankston Mornington Peninsula LLEN and VCAL 2021-2022.

2021 marks 20 Years of LLEN and we will be celebrating the work that has been done through partnerships with schools and industry.

2001 was also the inception of Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL), which began in schools in 2002. The VCAL program was developed in response to education and learning needs identified by the Ministerial Review of Post Compulsory Education and Training Pathways in Victoria (2000), also known as the Kirby Report. One of the findings of the Kirby Report highlighted poor senior secondary outcomes for many students. VCAL provides hands on and vocational options for students and became a robust qualification for those students seeking trade and vocational pathways.

VCAL allows students to obtain real life and employment experience setting them in advanced standing for careers as they left school. VCAL provided a satisfying and meaningful VCE option for students who may have exited for a trade in year 9 or 10. We will explore the rich history of VCAL in detail next year to commemorate the anniversary we will celebrate and reflect through the VCAL Voice and other events. Looking forward to a great 20th birthday



Home A short story between two times By Dassah Samuel

A house stands upon the Lyall Bay hills

That's just high enough to see the little busy town below. It has a splendid view when the weather is right and even better with the right company. I'm woken up by the sunrise that beams through the weak threads of my curtains onto my skin and into my eyes. The fumes of Mum's morning rolled oats fill up the house. I hear the loud bass through our thin walls playing her favourite gospel album 'Fighting Temptations' which tells me she's in a blissful mood this Friday morning. She must be excited to spend the weekend with her bosom buddy.

I shuffle to the end of my bed dazed and droopy, wondering to myself. "How does this lady do it?" She spends days working nine-to-five, coffee date after coffee date and meeting after meeting. She still carries me with her. With my eyes squinted, I notice my pristine ironed uniform for the day done by Mum too. I'm up and ready for the day with my full bag for after school activities as I walk into the morning fumes of home cooking. I peek at the calendar and see the hectic day Mum has planned for herself. Another busy day filled with catch up coffee dates, a lot of gossip to be told I believe. As I make it to the cosy kitchen I see clear blue sky with the sun gleaming through the big bay windows. I know today's gonna be a good day.

It's Saturday morning and today I woke to the aggressive wind against the rattling windows. My body shivers knowing today's game is in the cold. I roll out of bed and put on my blue and gold netball dress with the short sleeves and the loose bottom and my full black asics ready to go. I smell the fumes of Mum's rolled oats again but today it's sweet, filled with kiwifruit to boost my energy for the day. As I'm walking to the game courts my nerves start to pick up as we lead up to finals.

I finish my game and make it back to my warm cosy home. As I step through the front door more aroma's of Mum's cooking welcomes me home. Potato bake with buttery garlic rolls, Home. She missed my game today but it's all worth it now. I take a seat on the cold bar stools and pull a cheeky grin as Mum dishes my food. As I dig into the delicious masterpiece, a buzzing vibration from Mum's phone stops us all. Who would've thought in 30 seconds, eight words could change everything? I see the gentle break in Mum's facial expressions and the slight crack in her voice as she breaks the news. "I'm sorry, Aunty Ega isn't going to make it darling." with tears in her eyes. We pack up everything and rush to the hospital. I see you there, but this time you're not cracking jokes or telling us about your new overseas experience. This time you're connected to pipes and drips. Plugs and needles. Brain dead they said. Koreti Mavega Tiimalu Savesi. As we say our last goodbyes on your hospital bed, I never understood your significance to Mum until now. I see her reach over your body as she wraps both arms around you and squeezes just as hard as your bear hugs.

It's now been five days since your last breath. This Friday feels different. Today I woke to silence in a cold home. This morning there was no smell of rolled oats or the loud bass from fighting temptations, but the sound of heavy rain and smoke from the burnt out candles. I walk down the hallway to glimpse at the calendar again, not to see coffee date after coffee date but errands set for your funeral. My uniform still scrunched in the spot I threw it in and my bag was just as empty as my house. With no music or sunshine beaming through the curtains, just a half hearted and faint home.

It's now Saturday morning and it's been a week since our Semi-Final. The Sun Shines through the curtains and I'm hoping Aunty Ega carries me for this win. I roll out of the bed and put on my blue and gold netball dress again, this time with a Black armband for your significance. No energy boost or nerves ticking my anxiety, but a purpose to play with a reason. I now realise home is not the place, it's the people.





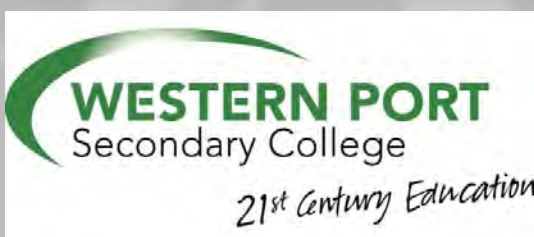
ANZAC PLAQUES

As part of a PDS project the Year 11 students decided to create Anzac plaques. According to one Year 11 student Pierre Limock, "as a group" the students decided to create these plaques for their project. Pierre stated that each student had to make a sketch for the ANZAC plaques and then as a group plan and decide on how to make them.



The College community came together for their Anzac Day service to recognise the first major military battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. On this day some members of the VCAL class, including Pierre, presented the plaques in honour of Anzac Day to Frank of Crib Point RSL and Gary of Hastings RSL. This was an honour and privilege for these students. Pierre said, "it felt like a sense of pride and like we had done something for the community and for the soldiers that had fallen."

Lest we forget.



Reported by Zeke Gray and Jake Henley. Year 12

Mornington Peninsula Youth Services

I write this on Melbourne's first day out of what will hopefully be our last state-wide lockdown. Well done to all the students in Frankston and Mornington Peninsula VCAL programs and their teachers and support staff. It has not been easy for anyone.

It has also been a strange time for us here in Youth Services. Typically, youth workers are not the types to enjoy sitting behind a computer for very long. We love going into schools and the community, chatting with young people, and running programs. While we have kept some of our programs running via video conferencing, nothing beats face-to-face connections.

Schools can contact us if they would like the support from the Youth Services Team to run personal development programs with students.

We offer a range of programs including:

**Peninsula Pride – For LGBTIQ+ young people and allies aged 12-17 from 4:30-6pm
Thursdays in Rosebud and Wednesdays in Frankston**

Social Space – fun social hangout for young adults 18-25 years Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm at Hastings and Mornington

After school hours Drop-in Programs at Mornington and Hastings

**Creative Catz- For young people aged 12-17 who love making art and crafts –
Thursday 3:30-5pm Mornington and Rosebud.**

School holiday activities and excursions (check website for details)

Freeza Committee – The Freeza committee aged 10-25 organises arts and culture events for young people in the region

For more details about how to join into groups and activities or to invite us to your school, check out our website [- MPYS](#) or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Hope to see you soon !





Excellence Awards Recipients Congratulations

Advance College
Bayside Christian College
Carrum Downs Secondary College
Chisholm Frankston
Chisholm Rosebud
David Scott School
Dromana Secondary College
Elisabeth Murdoch College
Flinders Carrum Downs
Flinders Tyabb
Frankston High School

John Paul College
Learn Engage Connect
McClelland College
Monterey Secondary College
Mornington Secondary College
Mt Eliza Secondary College
Mt Erin College
Naranga School
Padua College
Patterson River Secondary College
Peninsula Specialist College
Rosebud Secondary College
Somerville Secondary College
Westernport Secondary College

Ashlyn Fry
Anthony Stylianou
Jarron Birtles
Johanne Mail
Samual Woods
Bridie Fahey
Eva Barnes
Codie-Anne Stanfield
Josh Taylor
Jacob Rowe
Flynn Thornton-Heath

Aaron Jakubczyk
Jillee Currie
Ryan Staunton
Te Awariki McRoy
Sam Mcgenniken
Amber Beukema
Jackson Gollings
Rebekah Lawrie
Blain Blight
Kyan Frantzeskakis
Brody Harris
Aliyra Daniels
Georgia Simonsen
Ophelia Lee





Encouragement Awards Recipients Congratulations

Advance College
Bayside Christian College
Carrum Downs Secondary College
Chisholm Frankston
Chisholm Rosebud
David Scott School
Dromana Secondary College
Elisabeth Murdoch College
Flinders Carrum Downs
Flinders Tyabb
Frankston High School
John Paul College
Learn Engage Connect
McClelland College
Monterey Secondary College
Mornington Secondary College
Mt Eliza Secondary College
Mt Erin College
Naranga School
Padua College
Patterson River Secondary College
Peninsula Specialist College
Rosebud Secondary College
Somerville Secondary College
Westernport Secondary College

Brandon Watson
Harrison McMillan
Avril Taylor
Chantelle Cockman
Amarlia Benetti
Rachel Ferguson
Casper Daw
Abbea Scott
Tyler Euhus
Emily Phillips
Jaxon Fraser
Jodie Siggs
Tenille Davidson-Jack
David Meikle
Chloe Spencer
Jayme Hill
Jekab Kesnars
Benjamin Barbagallo
Ashlin Nelson
Riley McIntosh
Aaron Galea
Jock Fowler
Pearl Kearns
Alex Doumbos
Pierre Limock





Industry Partnership Awards Recipients

Bayside Christian College

Carrum Downs Secondary College

David Scott School

Elisabeth Murdoch College

McClelland College

Mt Eliza Secondary College

Padua College

Patterson River Secondary College

Somerville Secondary College

Hannah Lock

Kenneth Chen

Nikkita Mether

Cooper Jamous

Tremaine Cooper

Maggie Martin

Sam Di Pofi

Jade Boode

Kasey Nichol

**Thank you to all our sponsors and industry partnerships from
VCAL students Frankston Mornington Peninsula.**



HOW LOCKDOWN 6 HAS AFFECTED THE STUDENTS AND HOW THEY'RE MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Vivone Street Year 12 (VCE student and a school captain):

How have you found your education at McClelland College?

Vivone loved being educated by the teachers at McClelland. "I've absolutely loved it, as many of my friends, peers and teachers would tell you, I am dreading the end of the year. I really don't want to leave and I know it's something I'm going to have to do and I'm going to have to accept it because I am going on to do bigger and better things but, the community that I found here has been so welcoming and loving and I have absolutely loved my time and my education here at McClelland." **What led you to go to VCAL or VCE?**

Vivone knew she was always wanting to study VCE for her line of work she wants to do in the future. Vivone wanted to do something creative and within the arts as far as she knew and then suddenly had a concrete plan to work in film and television. "I always knew that it was VCE personally just because what I want to do or what I thought I wanted to do was not trade based or VCAL didn't offer what I needed, so I always knew I was going to do VCE and go to university."

How has Covid impacted you?

Vivone feels that she hasn't been impacted by Covid as much as others have as she is still attending all of her classes. "It hasn't really, I mean I'm trapped inside my home yes, but I am still attending all my classes, I'm there for the entire period. Even if the google meet has ended I hang around just to get my work done, if I have questions. So I am pretty much working to the same schedule I would if I was at school."

What kept you motivated during lockdown?

Vivone has been kept motivated by knowing she has to achieve a higher ATAR to get into the job she wants to do. "Knowing that I have to get a higher ATAR to get into the course I wanna do, the course I want. I'm hoping to head to Swinburne, is like the most competitive film and television course in the state and because of that, I have to get a very high ATAR, and to get a high ATAR one has to study a lot, so that's the main motivation."

How do you see next year unfolding for students?

Vivone thinks that next year for students will be complicated. "Complicatedly to be completely honest, because we are the first year level that has gone through the entirety of VCE pretty much for remote learning. I think my mother told me the other day, about a year of our VCE was remote. So the things we are supposed to learn or the skills we're supposed to have from being onsite we're not necessarily going to have and so I think that makes it slightly more challenging when it comes to going out to university and stuff."

When lockdown finishes, what three places do you plan to travel to?

Vivone doesn't really have a desire to travel around the world. "My desire to travel internationally is not great at the moment, I mean even before Covid. I have places I want to visit but it's not necessarily something I'm looking to do urgently, I'd rather explore here in Australia with my family growing up we went on road trips. I've been to most places in Australia but, the places I would like to go to where my family are in South Australia."

How have you found your education at McClelland College? Emily loved being educated by the teachers at McClelland. "Yeah pretty decent, I feel like it's better than a lot of other schools with what we've got you know?"

What led you to go to VCAL or VCE?

Emily was led to VCE because she would like to go to university for her future line of work. "I would like to go to uni, so it's the best road to take to go to uni." Emily would like to study either nursing or paramedics at uni

How has covid impacted you?

Emily has felt impacted a lot by covid. "Not very good, makes learning a lot harder and like mental health, physical health pretty bad, pretty negatively."

What kept you motivated during lockdown?

Emily has been motivated because she has to do school work. "The fact that I have to and the fact that we have two months to go until it's all over and that's basically it because I don't really like remote learning, so I've basically just done it because I had to."

How do you see next year unfolding for students?

Emily seems to think that next year it will unfold better for students. "I'd say a lot better than what we had for the last two years because covid will still be around but a lot more people will be vaccinated and they'll have two years of experience of lockdown so they'll be more organised and prepared. I don't think it'll be normal but it'll be a lot easier from when we had it."

When lockdown finishes, what three places do you plan to travel to?

Emily would like to see her partner, go to England and somewhere with snow. "Well I would like to travel to my boyfriend's house because I haven't seen him in many weeks or been there in many months. I'd like to travel to England because, sorry Australia I'm leaving you and I'm living in England eventually and probably like the Grampians or something, I wanna see the snow because I missed out on the snow camp because of lockdown this year."

Do you have any advice for year twelves next year?

Emily's advice is to not go to VCE if it's not required. "Only go into VCE if you really need it and if you are prepared for the work load, because it's not worth if you don't need it. Especially if lockdowns are a prospect."

Emily Taylor Year 12 VCE student

How have you found your education at McClelland?

Tyrael found his education at McClelland, although he also stated it was a ride of an education but enjoyed it overall. "My education. Its actually been quite a ride, I've experienced quite a lot at the school and I'd say I've been educated fairly well, I'd say there has been some bits where I could haveworked on where I could have been taught better in math or something. But I'd say all round, my education at McClelland has been actually pretty good. I've had like good interactions with the teachers in my five years I think I've been at the school."

What led you to go to VCAL or VCE?

Tyrael is more of a hands on type of person more than he is with the books. "So I opted for VCAL because I'm more of a hands on person. I had a progress meeting and they explained to me the differences between VCAL and VCE. So VCE, they explained my ATAR sort of writing path, so if I wanted to go to university. I didn't love that, I'm not a uni person, I don't plan to go to uni, I wanna bea detective, I don't need a uni's course for that and I also wanted to do construction for a while." **How has covid impacted you?**

Tyrael feels that he has been impacted by covid as he's not a big fan of remote learning because he doesn't get motivated enough. "Its impacted me, I'd say it's impacted everyone but, if I'm talking about myself, its impacted me a lot, like it's changed my life, I mean I can't remember a time before covid I don't know, I've been through a lot of stages, I've been depressed, just sad in my bed. First lockdown I couldn't get out of bed, all I'd do is sleep. I think I slept about 14 hours a day, every day for like two months."

What kept you motivated during lockdown?

Tyraels motivation came from his education to get his year 12 pass. "Education really, getting my year 12 pass would be something that motivates me because I don't wanna go through life with a year 10 pass, which is what you get if you didn't get your year 12 one I'm pretty sure. That and mostly, I'm surrounded by good people who always motivate me to keep going."

How do you see next year unfolding for students?

Tyrael thinks that next year for it will be complicated as we would start off with covid as it will be difficult to find a job with covid around. "With us going out, we're gonna start off in the world with covid so it's going to be a rough patch for us to start in the real world, so obviously it's going to be hard finding a proper job, most places won't be open so we won't be able to go out and live our life, have our fun times like people would 20 years, that sort of stuff because covid has just obliterated that."

When lockdown finishes, what three places do you plan to travel to?

Tyrael would like to travel to New York, hike up a mountain and get some ice-cream. "If I had themoney for it, I'd go to Brooklyn New York, go get some ice-cream and I'd like to go on a hike up amountain on a nature walk. I'd climb Mount Everest, but that's a lot of money." the reason Tyraelwants to go to Brooklyn is because of his favourite show called Brooklyn nine-nine that he's a complete nerd about that he's watched about seventy hundred times.

Do you have any advice for next year's year 12s?

Tyraels advice is to get goals for life. "My advice for them is to get some goals in life, because once you're out of school it's gonna seem like you don't have a lot to do, but it's a lot harder because inschool it's kinda like your little social area like social, you have to do work that sort of stuff, think of it as a little simulation of life, that's kinda what school is. When you go out, you're in a big world now. Somet yourself some goals and have priorities in life."

Tyrael Gray Year 12 student and SRC Member

HOW LOCKDOWN 6 HAS AFFECTED THE STUDENTS AND HOW THEY'RE MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Taryn Marks Year 12 VCAL Student

How have you found your education at McClelland College?

Taryn has enjoyed her education at McClelland. "Good yeah, a lot of different opportunities I've been given by the school and I appreciate it."

What led you to go to VCAL or VCE?

Taryn is more of a hands on type person. "Mainly because I'm more of a hands on learner. I don't think the VCE is structured doesn't really assist on how I learn I guess, I just gravitated to VCAL more because it was more active and gave me pathways I can see myself go further in."

How has Covid impacted you?

Taryn has been impacted negatively by Covid. "Pretty negatively as one could imagine but ugh, I don't know, it's a bit of a weird question it is, so many things have changed because of it. I guess the worst part of it is school, not being able to see anyone but also not being able to interact with teachers."

What kept you motivated during lockdown?

Taryn has been motivated by taking advantage of it. "Just by taking advantage I guess, thinking that if I get everything done now, won't have to do it later when it's over, just butching through everything while I can."

How do you see next year unfolding for students?

Taryn thinks if Covid is still around, remote learning could take a good direction. "I mean by that time if Covid isn't settled down by then, maybe online learning could take a good kinda direction, ugh I'm not too sure, I don't know."

When lockdown finishes, what three places do you plan to travel to? Taryn would like to go see her sister who lives in Darwin. "I'd love to go see mysister in Darwin again, that'd be lovely to go travel."

What advice do you have for year 12s next year?

Taryn's advice is not to take advantage of school. "I'd say just appreciate the time you have with your friends while you're at school cause I guess a lot of things will change, just appreciating the time you have at school is the best thing you can do in year 12."

CITY EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Hey reader, I'm Chloe from the McClelland College VCAL program, and I would like to speak to you about the VCAL system and what we do here in VCAL at McClelland.

VCAL is responsible for hosting community events such as things like podcasts in the media room which houses a quality camera and microphones along with a greenscreen. Sausage sizzles, car shows are just some of the events that we have hosted in the past. Last year we had year twelve students host a car washing event to raise money for charity. We do a lot of hands on projects when prac. day/week arrives, everyone chooses a project they want to do and on prac. day/week, they start their projects.



Year 12 VCAL students went to the city for the Immigration Museum and for a scavenger hunt around the city. The museum was for a CAT we were doing for the future called Navigating the Future. The scavenger hunt was about finding or navigating your way through the city on your own without any teachers to assist.

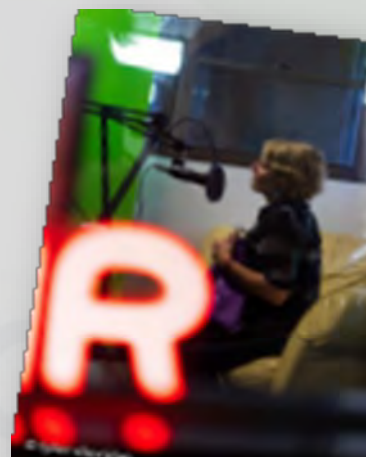
On the 11th of March 2021, during the fourth period, we had a visit from the MP, Peta Murphy the Federal Member for Dunkley, come and see the Vcafe, Salon and the media room that she had given us the money for to work on. Today, we had our first female VCAL captain given her badge and the house captains awarded their badges for the year.

On March the 18th, 2021 VCAL officially opened up Project HQ. The project

headquarters is where we house all of our project materials and resources.

Thank you for reading.

Until next term,



City Experience Highlights

Year 11 VCAL visited the city in March as part of the numeracy program. They had to plan an itinerary visiting several sites around the city including the MCG and the Shrine. They were required to use train and tram timetables to organise where they would go and estimate how long it would take. They then sent selfies of their group at different locations to the teachers. They all managed to complete their tasks, although one group did get lost in Richmond and resorted to calling an Uber to Federation Square!!



THOUGHTS ON THE DAY!!

Darcy Keddall



Pierre Limock



Our group hopped on a tram to the Shrine of Remembrance and walked up the massive hill towards it and got a photo of our group at the eternal flame. The next place we went to was the Royal Botanical Gardens on our way to the MCG, I took some good photos of some of the little waterfalls and the trees I saw. We then made our way back up to Flinders Street to get some lunch after seeing the MCG. We decided to go to this little kebab shop near Federation Square. It was a good day out

Our group had planned to go to Fed Square, then to the Shrine of Remembrance then to the MCG then make our way to China Town. After completing all the required tasks our group went to Culture Kings. Once the deadline was near, we returned to Fed Square. Overall, this was a great day.



Jacob Kerr On Thursday, the 18th of March all the Year 11 VCAL students went to the city. I caught the train near my house at 8am and got to Frankston Station to meet up with everyone, once we did a head count and were ready, we took the train to Flinders Station.

Once we arrived, we went to Bourke Street and split up.

My group figured that we should go to the Shrine of Remembrance first and the MCG second. So, we hopped on a tram to the Shrine, but we got off early because we thought we missed the stop, but we got off early and had to walk there from the tram stop, which took us about ten or twenty minutes. Once we got there and took our picture, we made our way to the MCG. We took the tram to Bourke Street and walked the rest of the way. We planned to go on the train but there was not another one for a while so we decided to walk because google maps said it would be quicker.

So, we walked around China Town for a while and checked some of the shops there out, we did not really know what half of the things in the shops were, so we just chilled out. At the end of the day we went back to meet up with everyone and got the train to Frankston Station. From there we were dismissed. It was a fantastic day out.

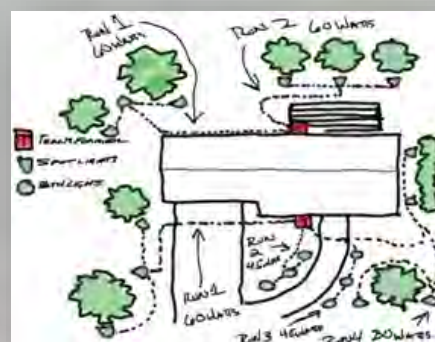


Reporters: Delilah Smith, James Brown and Tamara Manders Year 12 VCAL

Virtual Work Experience

In the absence of much of “ the real thing” in 2021 , we decided to access a digital program (The Careers Department) in an attempt to replicate the process by completing a Virtual Work Experience Week.

Much like workplace experience, students were first required to complete OHS induction modules including risk management, hazard management and our reality, Covid safe plans . Once completed, the interesting part began, with students electing, from an exhaustive list, an industry of choice. Then they were provided with a design brief , task, or project to manage. Our most popular projects proved to be designing a fashion capsule collection , designing a lighting design for a new house, writing a training plan for clients at an F45 gym and devising a restoration plan for a flora reserve.



At this point, depending on their chosen project, they were directed to further skills acquisition modules including skills such as coding, analytics, networking , mood boarding and quoting (among others) . Armed with this information they then spent the remainder of the week, completing their assigned tasks before submitting them to their clients , for feedback and appraisal. Our students reported that the process felt very real and for some was ‘ even better than the real thing’ . All have acquired new transferable skills and valued the applied nature of the activity, which they had sorely missed. It will certainly be something we will include in our curriculum at JPC for future planning- even when our students do get back into the workplace.



Fight for Life



Mim Parisi the instructor

During Term 2 the Year 12 students completed the Fight for Life program. This program led by Mim Parisi is a 10 week program that focuses on teaching students to become confident and strong, inside and out. This boxing and mindset program addresses such topics as fearlessness, grit, passion, and a fighter's mindset, all to inspire and guide students on a journey from feeling powerless and fearful to empowered, strong and fearless. It also introduces positive mindset strategies at a key point in a student's emotional development. The mission is to relate, teach and learn from each other as a method for preventative measures when dealing with challenges.



"Punching was such a good way to release my frustrations."
Katrina Sarkozi



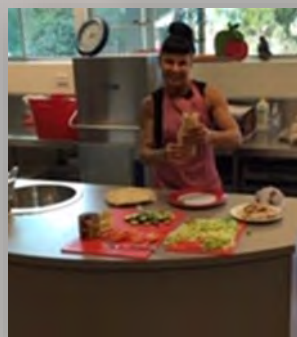
Student Reflections

"As part of PDS we participated in the Fight for Life program which is about boxing as well as creating positive mindset and knowing better nutrition for our bodies. This program runs for 10 weeks by Mim Parisi a boxing enthusiast and mindset coach. She has been great so far teaching and pushing us to do better and gain basic skills of boxing along with the countless pushups and catching the 9kg ball. As well as this we complete a weekly section of a mindset book which we sometimes discuss with her if it's not too much of a personal question." Delilah Smith

"This program enabled me to open up emotionally. It was easy to talk with Mim and to feel comfortable sharing my feelings because Mim had been through a lot." Jake Henley

"Fight for Life is a program set up by a lady called Mim Parisi. Fight for Life is a program based around boxing. Part of the program requires you to get your mindset right first before you start thinking about nutrition and getting fit. Mim started Fight for Life after trauma and abuse in her life and has become a health coach to help others learn to love themselves."

"I really enjoyed the classes and learnt about myself and boxing along the way. I enjoyed how passionate Mim is to help others and I would recommend this to anyone who has been to gyms and failed or anyone who needs to learn to love who they are again." Zeke Gray



"If you are thinking about joining Mim Paris's fight for life 10-week program I highly recommend it, and you will walk away knowing skills and life sessions you didn't before, not just that, but you will become mentally and physically strong and confident within yourself!" Katrina Sarkozi

"A great experience, I would recommend it to anyone else." James Brown

"It was a great alternative to sitting down and completing written work." Brodie Dennehy



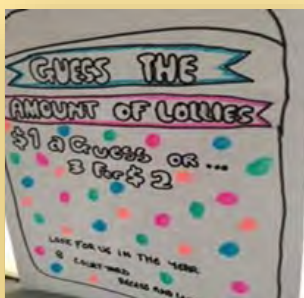
Thursday 27th of May the Year 11 VCAL students hosted the Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Students made some delicious food and the coffee was sensational. The students were able to raise \$680 from the event, games and a silent auction which included wonderful donations and vouchers from local businesses. The W.P.S.C. school community were extremely lucky to host the event as the next day it was Lock-down 4.0!



*Reporters: Katrina Sarkozi and Katie Grant
Year 12 VCAL W.P.S.C.*

A student's reflection

My group made Mars Bar slices. Although we had a few communication issues throughout the cooking process, the Mars Bar Slice ended up being a success. We were able to ensure the success of our Mars Bar Slice by allocating certain people to complete different steps in the recipe



On the day of the Biggest Morning Tea we helped prepare the food, including assembling the scones and the cakes. We also helped arrange the food tables. On the day I was also chosen to help serve food for the Biggest Morning Tea throughout the whole of lunchtime. We made sure to comply with the COVID Safe rules to make the event safe and healthy for all of those who attended. This task tested our communication skills, ability to work under pressure, organisation, teamwork and problem-solving skills. I believe the Biggest Morning Tea was a success, as we received endless compliments on how lovely the food was, as well as the service.

Chelsea Thompson Year 11 VCAL W.P.S.C.

VCAL's day at Werribee Zoo

On the 10th of May, both the Intermediate and Senior VCAL classes from Frankston High School departed school at 8am on a big coach, ready to experience all that Werribee Zoo had to offer. After a long hour and a half ride through Melbourne and over the West Gate Bridge, we finally made it to Werribee Zoo.

Upon arrival, the smell of fresh animal droppings filled our noses as we stepped off the coach, and if you listened closely enough, you could hear the sounds of some of the animals in the zoo. As a group, we shuffled to the entrance and the smells of delicious café foods from the 'Meerkat Café' hit us all at once. Straight after the group introduction to the zoo by the teachers, we were off to get a taste of Werribee Zoo at the 'Meerkat Café' by filling our bellies with over-priced goodies like fresh baked cookies and pies. After a short while at the café, we decided to start our walk around the zoo before we had to meet the rest of the class at the 'Crazy Cat Enclosure.' Our first animal encounter were the ever so inquisitive meerkats, who were very excited about their breakfast and a clean enclosure. We saw all sorts of gorgeous animals, giant gorillas, playful lions who pawed at the glass, sleeping hyenas, energetic emus, and huge hippopotamus'.

Shortly after a lap around the zoo admiring some more beautiful animals, we met up as a class at the 'Crazy Cat Enclosure,' ready to experience a live cat show with a beautiful Serval whose performance was short but sweet and really showed off the intelligence of a Serval and its ability to hunt. A little later on, it was time to complete our OH&S and Risk Assessment worksheet which was talked through for us by a friendly zoo keeper who also provided an activity for us to do that helped us answer the questions on our worksheet. We then had a little more free time after our talk through with the zoo keeper and then it was on to the 'Safari Station', where all the students hopped on a three carriage safari bus which took us through the open range part of the zoo. Camels, Mongolian Wild Horses, American Bison, Scimitar-horned Oryx, and Blackbuck were just some of the animals we were first introduced to on the tour by our knowledgeable zookeeper, Rachael. A couple of river crossings later and we found ourselves surrounded by the rare White Rhinoceros', Zebras, including a 24-hour old baby Zebra, Giraffes, Ostriches and Eland, all sharing the same enclosure!

As our safari tour ended, we headed back up the road in the safari bus, but were stopped short in our tracks by a pair of giraffes who decided to stand in the middle of the road, blocking our way out of their enclosure. Rachael explained to us that the giraffes did this on purpose as a way to get food because the zookeepers had to be called out to lure them away with treats. Eventually the giraffes moved without assistance from zookeepers and we got on our way. When the tour ended, we thanked our tour guide and driver Rachael, and headed towards our coach, homeward bound.

Thank you to Ms Bourne, Mrs D'Ambra, Mr Booth, Mr Bakker and Karina for making sure we had a fun and successful trip, and for supervising us the whole time. On behalf of the Intermediate and Senior VCAL classes, we are so appreciative to have had such a fun and educational opportunity.

Olivia Percoco

Senior VCAL Class of 2021



Affirmation Cards

My name is Elise Macdougall and I am a student at the [Learn Engage Connect VCAL](#) young parents' program ran at Chisholm Institute of TAFE in Frankston.

During a class in May this year, as a VCAL project I taught the students how to make their own set of affirmation cards. I got this idea from a news article- [Positivemindopenheart.com](#)

Affirmation cards are positive reminder cards to keep you happy, strong, and successful. They encourage you to be confident, calm and have a positive mindset. They can have short sentences or paragraphs on them, with your own personal quotes or questions. It takes roughly two days to complete your affirmation cards. The class enjoyed making them and some people chose to decorate their cards with images and drawings. The class was able to laminate their cards and take them home, so they have a daily reminder to stay positive. You can leave these cards in the car, in the bathroom or next to your bed. You can manifest your goals through affirmation cards.

Affirmation cards help to bring a little bit of positivity and happiness into your day. There are a lot of benefits to making your very own affirmation cards. They can help you with your self-worth, to encourage you to succeed, be successful and you can manifest your goals through affirmation cards. If you continue to think positive every day, your mindset will eventually start to change, and you will start to think more positive. You learn to ignore the negative thoughts and bring the positive thoughts in.

Affirmation cards can help with

Feelings of Anxiety

Improving on low self esteem

Increasing confidence

Encouraging perseverance

Developing resilience to bullying

Creating positive self talk

Developing a growth mindset

Positive thinking/mindset

By Elise Macdougall

Senior VCAL Student

Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program



VOX POPS FROM FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

I en-
VCAL

joy
be-

cause the work is more life related. Like how in Numeracy, we learn about saving money to buy a car or a house. I like Literacy a lot better than last year because we learn about current situations around the world that could relate to us and our age group. I also like how we get to experience work outside of school with work placement on Fridays. It gives me the knowledge to know if it is what I want to do as a career. My current placement is at PARC as a Personal Trainer and I am really enjoying it at the moment. – Luke

I like how many opportunities are available for me to further explore what I am passionate about. In Literacy, my eyes have been opened to a new way of thinking about homelessness and how there are significant external influences which impact a person's life. In Numeracy, I have really enjoyed the life skills and applied aspects of the lessons, such as calculating super and tax as well as making a home budget. In WRS, I have really enjoyed learning about OHS and looking into the hazards and risks in the Sport & Rec environment, thanks to this I am now safer at work. In PDS, I have enjoyed learning about how to organise events and looking further into the 'gap' between indigenous and non-indigenous people. –

Alex

Before I moved into VCAL I was a very shy person in classes but outside of the class I was the opposite. VCAL has shown me to be confident, not feel judged from my classmates and has given more of the life-based education rather than stuff I know that won't be useful for my future. I have learnt stuff from buying a house, tax, buying a car, homeless people and their living conditions, mental health, aboriginals, health and safety skills, OHS, work placement, having a job, etc. –

Hailee

In Literacy I've really enjoyed studying the documentary 'The Oasis' and going in-depth about youth homelessness and how young people have ended up in the situation they are in and how it has affected their mental health. I'm starting to enjoy Numeracy because of the life skills that we are learning like budgeting and other skills that will help us later in life. In PDS we have learnt about the 'gap' between the indigenous people and the first settlers, learning about this has really shown me how a lot of the racism and inequality that started back then is still happening today. WRS has really helped me with going into my further career, it has taught me about employability skills and what employers look for in an employee. – Flynn

I am forever in debt to this school for the opportunity it has given me to join the VCAL class of 2020 and finishing Senior VCAL in 2021 after starting the program up again for the first time in ten years. – Matthew

The thing I like about VCAL is that it is more of a hands-on program, I like the practical work at school and the work at Tafe. I enjoy the VCAL program more because of my class. I like most of the subjects we study. They are different to the subjects we learnt in the earlier years and I get more out of each of them. I learn more in class, some of the things I've learnt from each subject is from Numeracy we've learnt how to maintain and use your money in a responsible way. In Work Related Skills we have learnt about the hierarchy of control method used on my worksite. In Personal Development Skills we studied the methods about conflict and different ways to avoid or help solve a problem. Finally, in Literacy we have learnt about the big problem of homelessness and the situations that young people might get themselves in to and how to reduce this from happening. – Jake

I have liked VCAL because it was not stressful, the class was awesome, everyone was friendly, and the teachers were helpful when you needed support. I also liked it because I got the opportunity to work and get experience for my future. – Jaiden

I like that I can go to VET and go on work placement to get some work experience in an ongoing and authentic way.

– Michael



ing

VOX POPS FROM FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

I feel liked that VCAL has given me life skills that I'm actually going to use and can incorporate into my daily life. I am confident that the decision I have made to go into VCAL was the correct decision for my schooling and I am excited to continue to learn and grow as a person. – **Corey**

I Like the fact the VCAL is more suited to the direction of the career that I want to pursue. Having TAFE and Structured Workplace Learning is extremely helpful also due to the fact that I now have the opportunity to get a head start on my working life, while also staying in school. It offers a wide variety of useful skills that we can apply to our everyday lives. All of the work that we are completing currently has value, which helps us to prepare for a job interview, stay safe while on the worksite to avoid injury, avoiding conflict, and how to do taxes, save money, etc. VCAL is extremely useful for my current situation and it is definitely going to pay off in the future. – **Tom**

The topics you cover and learn are interesting and will help you in your future life as most of the topics are based around lifestyle. I have learnt many different things so far in VCAL that will help me in the future. PDS has helped me learn how to plan and organize events. I've learnt how to have better time management as well from it. I have been interested in Numeracy the most because we have been learning a lot on budgeting. We have covered taxes, superannuation, loans for cars and houses as well as many more things. Literacy has helped me improve my writing skills and has helped me try to think outside of the box more. I find Work Related Skills enjoyable as well because it gives you an introduction to the work force and what it is like in the adult world. It has helped me prepare for it and increased my knowledge on certain things such as OH&S and how important it is to ask for help and to never be scared. VCAL is made a lot more interesting and enjoyable as well because all of the teachers are very kind and helpful. No matter how many times you ask for help they will still give you a hand and continue to help you learn and make you improve yourself. – **Jaxon**

I have really enjoyed this year in VCAL. It has been extremely helpful and it has set me up for the future. **James**





Western Port Covid Clean Up Day

- Covid Clean up Day 17th September 2021 during your Screen Free period/s.
- Take Garbage Bags and Gloves or something else to pickup up rubbish with.
- Clean up your local area.
- Follow Covid restrictions 5kms from home and clean up during 2hr Exercise time.
- Take photos and send them to your Homegroup Teacher.



SHANE NICHOLS RACING



WORK PLACEMENT

I started working at Shane Nichols Racing in February 2021, I have not only been enjoying it but I have also learnt a bunch of new things. Before starting at Shane Nichols racing, I was working in a small racing stable totalling 5 horses in training, whereas Shane has 38 horses currently in training. I started working one day a week and ended up working on both Wednesdays and Fridays every week, plus doing extra work when I am needed. It all starts at 3:00 am and we finish at around 9:30 am during that time there are many tasks that need to be completed at the stables such as, loading and unloading trucks, cleaning the yards and boxes, filling hay nets, and making feeds before the horses get back from the track. Being at the track in the morning is a big job, there are 5 riders and ground staff. Ground staff are the ones that saddle the horses for the riders, washing the horses after they have been exercised, rugging them before they get onto the truck before they head back to the stables. Working at Shane Nichols Racing has made me realize that I want to work in racing once I finish school. I have a passion for the horses, and they make getting up in the morning

By Charlie Bellingham VCAL Year 11

KERRY EDWARDS

OWNER OF ALLEDOM PARK

CHARLIE BELLINGHAM

Local trainer Kerry Edwards and her business are still going strong through these hard times.

Back in 1991 Kerry was show jumping horses but didn't end up pursuing her career in show jumping as she knew she would have to sell her horses, but she loved them too much. instead, she decided to break horse in and train down horses at her local racetrack but to do that she had to have a trainers licence she applied for her licence and had to sit down and take a handwritten test and show the stewards her property and that she knew what she was doing. She didn't need qualifications she needed to prove herself that she could do it. From breaking in horses, she decided to pursue a career and become a racehorse trainer.

Kerry works very hard to get her horses to win by either taking horses to the beach, track and jump outs. Kerry has amazing clients who hire Kerry to train their horses to become winners. Kerry maintains her business by having horses that win races.



Pop Vox

Sitting on the grass as the sun kisses my skin, birds chirping afar as the water in the pond is disturbed from the fragile movements ensued by the ducks as they swim and bathe. Crickets chirping, flies buzzing about, and a single dragonfly fluttering above the water's surface as if it were to be sprinting across like a jet ski zipping through the sea. The light breeze from the wind, providing a cooling sensation and feeling of comfort as the smells of nature's beauty infiltrates my nostrils. Sap seeping from the trees as if they were to be shedding topaz tears seeping downward to the stump. The branches waving in the wind, shedding leaves and twigs to be blown off to find a new home of bird's nests or ants' colony to be taken back to their hill to place in their storage for later consumption. The grass swaying from the wind, tickling my hands as I move them from side to side, to be met with the moisture residue remaining in the grass.

A gentle breeze rustles the reeds and grasses that line the murky waters of the lake. Birds play within the water cause glimmering ripples across the surface. Logs protrude from the surface of the water. A weathered wooden boardwalk surrounds the perimeter of the lake, following the natural curves of the bed. Faded graffiti mars the surrounding fences and trees disrupt the landscape. Fallen logs provide lakeside seats while benches are in the shade below trees. The sun occasionally peeks through the clouds, casting harsh shadows of trees onto the surrounding grass. Bushes are filled with rubbish, having caught stray litter carried by the wind. Nest boxes sit in the trees, hoping to foster the species native to the area. Identical rooves are visible over the fences. The effect of people is blatant here, both the good and the bad. **(Bee Senior VCAL)**

Sitting on a stained wooden seat I rest, surrounded by natural beauty. I observe all of my surroundings, all of the sounds, smells, things I can see, taste and touch. I can see the plants and trees swaying with the wind, clouds slowly moving in the sky, the swampy dark water rippling and birds peacefully swimming, floating and diving under the water. Everything being gently moved and swayed by the gentle breeze blowing. Taking deep breaths, all I can smell is fresh air and the scents of nature. Listening to nothing but the peaceful sounds of frogs croaking, birds chirping, water splashing, tree branches clashing and the wind blowing. Everything around me calming me down and making me appreciate nature. I take it all in and just sit there among Mother Nature's greatest invention. I take lots of deep breaths and I can taste the fresh air in my mouth. On my face I can feel the cool gentle touch of the breeze, under my feet I can feel the dirt crumbling. Watching the birds joyfully play and float on the brown murky water and they dive for food. I lose myself among the nature for a while and escape from reality, it's just me and the wild where everything is calm. **(Kasey Senior VCAL)**

WETLANDS

Writing for Self-Expression

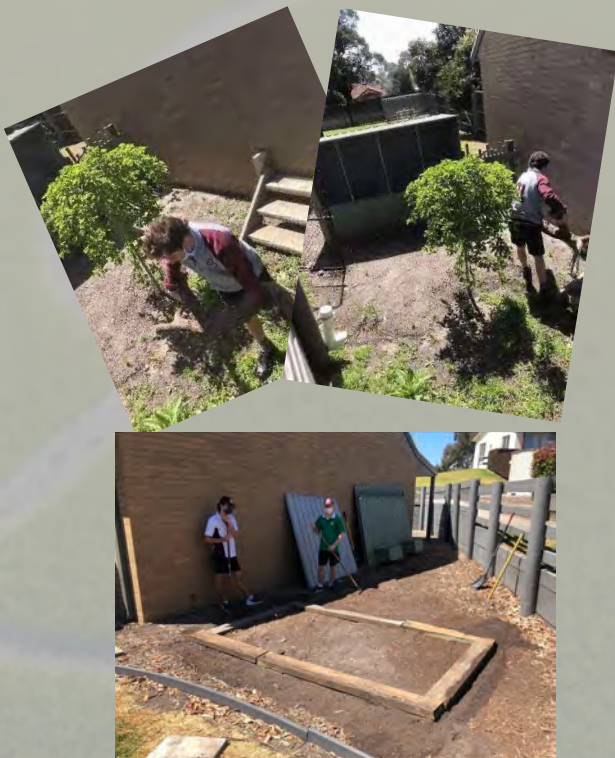
Reflective, mediative experience where students used the wetlands as an inspiration for their descriptive writing



As you enter the gates of the wetlands you are welcomed with chirps of the birds and the sounds of frogs croaking, as well as the smell of nature. The further you walk down you notice benches for resting around the lake. The lake is murky and ripples cover it like little waves, the ducks float above the water gliding gracefully across the wetland, their little orange legs poke up every now and then. Although the beauty of the wetlands can be distracting, upon closer inspection the litter of locals cover the ground. Carlton dry bottles, Powerade bongs and graffiti reflects the youth surrounding. The deteriorating trees and the hanging dead bark give a vibe of absence. Spotted baby ducks and their mother glide across the lake avoiding bits of rubbish as they paddle past, they live amongst the rubbish despite the beauty of the natural surroundings. Lily pads with flowers blossoming above them gracefully float above the ripples of the lake, their bright pink petals stand out in the brown murky lake. To cross the lake, you are to pass through by the old graffiti riddled wooden bridge to get to the other side. Once on the other side, leaking sap covered logs remain in random spots across the second side, good to sit down. Watching as the clouds move through the blue sky that is reflecting on the lake is refreshing, no need to look up to gaze at the clear skies above. **(Ben Senior VCAL)**

VCAL FROM FLINDERS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE- CARRUM DOWNS



Chicken Coop by Josh Taylor

Throughout the past year we have been working on a very special project. It all started last year with our topic of recycle, repurpose and reuse, when we decided to use recycled materials to build a new chicken coop for our primary school. The primary school has always loved caring for animals and using them as a way to learn and develop caring skills. The old chicken coop at our school was not taken care of and had fallen apart, so we decided to create a new one. It has been a long, but rewarding project due to lockdowns and restrictions but, it turned out amazing and the primary school loves it. All it needs now is some chickens to occupy it! This project has given us the skills to imagine, plan and then create something from scratch.

Drive in By Elle Swan

Earlier this year, our VCAL class worked in partnership with the Parent's and Friend's group to run the annual twilight Drive In evening at school. We were split into two groups, the catering team, and the car parking team. The catering team worked together in the rotunda selling all sorts of things like drinks, popcorn, glow in the dark items and more. The car parking team spread out all over the car park, greeting and parking over 80 families, ready to settle in and watch Toy Story 4. It felt great to be a part of creating a community feel, and being brought closer together with our classmates. We had learnt how important teamwork and communication was, and also being patient with each other considering how big of an event it was. Overall, the Drive In was an awesome and successful time for everyone, and we were so proud of our efforts



VCAL FLINDERS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- CARRUM DOWNS



Mother's Day card Maddison Rowen and Hannah

In Term 2 the Intermediate VCAL students hosted a Mother's Day Bookmark activity for the Preps and Year Ones at Flinders. This was a very successful event and the Preps and Year ones loved it. On the day we went to the classes, explained the activity and got started making Mother's Day bookmarks with the Preps and Year Ones. Once the Preps and Year Ones coloured in their bookmarks, we collected them and took them with us to laminate. A few days later we returned them to the Preps and Year Ones, and they were given to their Mums.



The COVID pandemic continues to put a hold on many projects that were to be undertaken by our VCAL students. However, despite this, our intermediate students came up with the idea to build Christmas Trees out of old pallets.

Students were required to source their own pallets and use tools from their own garage and research their own design. Students enlisted the help of family members and it became a family affair.

Students donated their Christmas Tree to local churches, workplaces, aged care homes, and primary schools. It is great to be able to spread some Christmas cheer and give back to the local community in this difficult year.



Christmas Tree Project Rohan Iqbal & Lewis Kuhlmann-Lee





Backpack for Kids Klear Os-



Backpack4kid are a registered Not For Profit charitable organisation run by volunteers. The organisations purpose is to aid displaced children by providing the essentials needed most urgently, long before any arrangements have been made to further support them. Often children

are placed quickly into foster or kinship care, for example, without much more than what they are wearing at the time. Backpack4Kids provide displaced children with a few essential items to help resource them, restoring dignity, self-worth, and to show them someone cares. The organisation operate solely on donations sought through fundraising, grants and sponsorship. Us as a VCAL team worked with backpack4kids for a day to help pack the backpacks, create essential items as well as make stationary packs for foster children. The experience is highly rewarded and an amazing experience everyone should have. After my VCAL end of year project the school and I have managed to donate over \$500 to backpack4kids. This donation will help a lot with the backpacks and the supplies needed for the foster children.





World's Greatest Shave Tyler Ehus

In March 2021 the VCAL class wanted to work with the team coordinating the World's Greatest Shave. We spent weeks working out timings and organizing how the day will proceed. The day itself worked out great and we had an amazing turn out of students and staff. We managed to raise over \$2000 with students raising funds to shave their heads, painting their hair, getting their legs waxed and buying a sausage sizzle. As a team, the project helped us to develop team building skills, organization and our problem-solving skills.



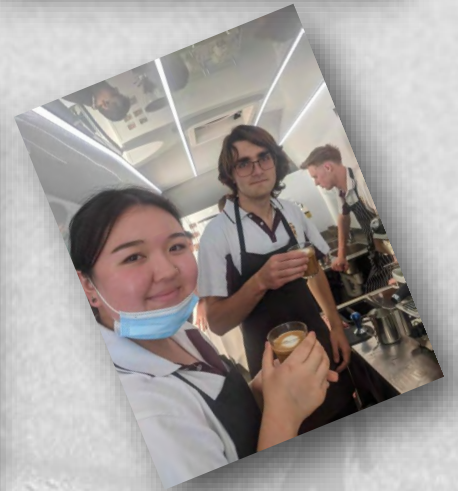


FLINDERS
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In February this year the VCAL team had an opportunity to complete a Barista course as well as a Food Handling certificate with 'RSA for Schools' who provided a Barista Bus for the hands-on learning that we needed. The latte art was so much fun. I learned that it was a lot harder than I thought to make a great cup of coffee! I loved every moment of it. We were able to put our skills to good use and worked two days a week at our school café serving parents, staff and students.



Barista course and Café Experience Connor Brightman





FLINDERS
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE





This year the students from the Learn Engage Connect VCAL young parents program held at Chisholm Frankston, participated in another year of The Sudsy Challenge. Students raised funds and awareness for Orange Sky laundry service. Orange Sky laundry service is a program that helps hundreds of vulnerable Australians every year by providing them with laundry and shower services from the Orange Sky custom-made vans.

Our Sudsy Challenge is completed over 3 consecutive days, chosen by each team in the month of September. Participants must wear and sleep in the same outfit for 3 days without changing. This can be challenging for parents, as we all know children can be very messy. This means having to wear the same t-shirt for 3 days even when your child throws up or spills something on it. Participating in this challenge was very insightful and it helped us to understand a little, about how the homeless feel when they must go days and even weeks without getting to change their clothes, let alone wash them.

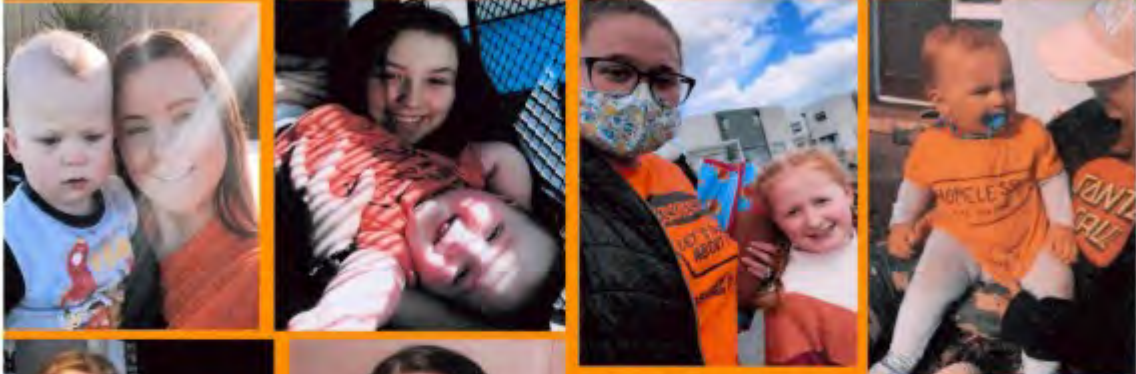
Together, another student and I managed this year's fundraiser. To raise awareness and promote our challenge, we posted photos and a message explaining Orange Sky's Sudsy challenge on our social media page. On our page we also asked for public donations, with students setting a goal to raise \$1,000 however, we absolutely smashed this goal by raising \$2,435. This money provides just over 100 loads of washing or 8 full shifts of free laundry, warm showers, and a genuine conversation to those in need. Our local van is not far from Frankston, and you can find all the information about it on the Orange Sky website.

I feel very honoured and proud to have been apart of The Sudsy Challenge, over the last 2 years and I would strongly encourage anyone considering participating in next year's challenge, to get involved. It's a fantastic cause.

By [Natalie Collins](#)
Senior VCAL Student



OrangeSky  **THE SUDSY CHALLENGE**
Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program 2021





THE SUDSY CHALLENGE

Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program 2021



Thank You!



Why I chose Chisholm

Amarlia Benetti Year 12 – Chisholm Regional (MP)

In March 2020 I moved from the inner suburbs of Melbourne, Hawthorn to the brink of the Peninsula in Cape Schanck. I was reluctant but ultimately had no choice as it was a family move and I was in no position to become independent. I had stopped attending a local, public mainstream school a few weeks into year 10. The first of our lockdowns had just begun. I wanted to complete my schooling, so I joined year 11 VCAL Chisholm MP (regional) about a term into the year. Due to COVID-19 all classes had been moved onto zoom for remote learning. This made me more and less confident in myself, going to a new school is always nerve wrecking and an unknown challenge.

Attending and logging into my first class was daunting but I also felt the comfortable familiarity of being in my own home and space. I had my own personal struggles with substance abuse at the time of joining VCAL which extended across my first year there, this meant my motivation and attention fluctuated massively, but keeping my end goal in mind and having the determination to, and working on ways to better myself personally, I kept consistently chipping away little by little and managed to complete my Year 11.

In 2021 we were back on campus with face-to-face learning, this allowed us all to get to know each other in person and build a strong and uplifting dynamic in the classroom. My time at VCAL has been the most amazing experience that I won't ever forget, I have learnt so much from my classmates and from my amazing teacher Loretta, I will take so much from this time with me, for the rest of my life.

This time two years ago I would have called what I have now accomplished a pipe dream, but I can now look back and reflect on how much I have grown and matured as a person since then. In the end what it all came down to, was how badly I wanted this. I applied myself to my schoolwork and my personal development enough to make it happen and I am so proud of myself for that and for where I am today.

Why We Chose Chisholm

I chose to study VCAL at Chisholm for a more independent and mature learning environment. I wasn't dealing well at school and was bored in every class. I have been more interested and involved at Chisholm and feel like I am learning more useful work. I think everyone at Chisholm wants to be there and wants to learn rather than at school when no one wants to be there– Casey

I chose Chisholm because I was sick of all the unnecessary rules and regulations in schools that were aimed more around controlling students and less about teaching. I chose to go down the VCAL road so I could complete a Cert II in Building & Construction to go on to become a chippy as I really enjoyed doing woodwork and metalwork at my old school. - Falon

I chose to study at Chisholm because I got sick of school (VCE) and wanted a more chilled learning environment. I found Chisholm very supportive of my work and education, I joined Chisholm halfway through Year 11 and have enjoyed it ever since.

– Ali

Ella Keeling – Chisholm TAFE - Regional MP

VCAL for me was the best thing I ever did! I made a choice to leave an environment that focused on written assessment outcomes and move into one that focused more on me as an individual and pathways, for me, it was the best decision I ever made.

This year, I moved to Chisholm TAFE MP to undertake intermediate VCAL. I have never been in a better place with my education and mental health. This time, 12 months ago, I had almost all of my tasks overdue and wasn't in the right headspace to even attend school, and was not motivated to complete anything. After moving to Chisholm's regional program - a smaller, easy-going class with a teacher who actually cares about helping you holistically, was amazing for me.

I have had a rough year this year and have had so much happen outside of school, being in VCAL and having such a caring teacher and class to help me get through this year was just the support I needed. I would most definitely suggest VCAL to anyone, especially people who are in the same boat as I was 12 months ago. I also had no future ideas for when I left school but now I have ideas and am focused more on caring for myself and how to juggle my school work as well.



MP visits LEC



On the 29th of April 2021, Peta Murphy came to visit the students and children of the Learn Engage Connect VCAL young parents program. Peta Murphy is a Federal Politician for Dunkley . She is a woman in a position of power using her platform for advocacy. This is a massive inspiration to us as young mums, that we also as a minority, can do something to make a difference. We all gathered around a table and started talking about our class programs and showed some of our class projects. We showed her some of our classroom work like mobiles hanging around the classroom, as well as affirmations cards created by students and handmade quilts students had finished, which Peta really liked. Peta also gave us some strategies and ideas on how to cope with challenging situations in the workplace especially since we are young mums, trying to study at the same time. Peta also went to talk about some of her strategies that she uses to cope with stress. She likes to go walking with her dog, talking to family and listening to podcasts, which all seem like great ideas to relive stress. We were very grateful to have Peta come in and chat with us all taking time out of her very busy schedule.

By Mikayla Sellars



VCAL EXCURSIONS

As part of VCAL we get to go on many different types of learning excursions to provide an engaging and active form of learning. Some examples of the excursions we went on are the Moonlit Sanctuary excursion, Balnarring Beach camp and many more.

During the Moonlit Sanctuary excursion year 11 and 12's went to the Moonlit Sanctuary to learn about the different types of animals housed there. Later on we would have multiple trips back helping the workers take care of the animals and the cleanliness of the park.

During the Balnarring Beach camp years 10, 11 and 12's went to the Balnarring Beach area and were tasked with coming up with 2 activities they had to lead for their group, these activities had to relate to their group's theme.

Thanks to these excursions I have been able to improve my leadership skills when running activities, as well as my organisational skills and my teamwork skills. During the Balnarring Beach camp I learnt that having confidence in my voice and actions helps me appear more like a leader in front of my peers. I also learnt that being well prepared when faced with some form of leadership role helps to boost my confidence and ensures that my activity makes sense.

At Moonlit Sanctuary I improved my organizational skills as I learnt to return everything to its proper place every time I used it.



Students are more than just a number

Why we dropped ATAR

The current education system places a strong emphasis on testing and ranked academic results. But, Torrens University Vice-Chancellor Professor Alwyn Louw believes that focusing solely on the ATAR as the main determinant for university entry can be problematic.

“ATAR is just a snapshot of time as students develop and grow. The problem with ATAR is that there’s so much pressure to get the highest score you possibly can. It gives you greater choice in your career pathways. We also know that students continuously develop at all ages – and that some secondary students mature later on, and as such, they need alternative entry pathways,” he explains.

So because we’ve always believed that ATAR is not a true representation of a student’s future success, at Torrens University we have removed it as an entry requirement. We believe passion unlocks potential. We know that each individual student’s strengths, talents and passions are a better indication of how they might succeed in higher education.

Our new entry requirement is a Year 12 certificate* (or equivalent) but we also offer other ways to enter university, including a diploma to bachelor’s pathway, creative portfolio applications and interviews.

Students can secure their place by applying now through our Early Entry program. We offer over 300 courses, tuition through industry-connected professionals, door-opening work placements and many types of scholarships.

Apply now - www.torrens.edu.au/how-to-apply



Safe Zoo Excursion: The Safe Zoo project had students tour a local business, learning how risks are managed and hazards controlled to keep employees, visitors and animals safe. Students were provided the opportunity to interact with a range of native animals to gain a deeper understanding of animal welfare. Students then applied the work-related knowledge gained from the excursion to an industry of their choice project.



The Safest Zoo Around

The Funky Farm is a local zoo based in Hastings, which specializes in native Australian animals. Although it seems like fun and games, there's a lot more going on behind the scenes. People don't realise that one wrong move with any of these animals could lead to injury and even death, for people and the animals.

Today, the Somerville Secondary College Senior VCAL class was led through the sanctuary by Chris Symons, the owner of the Funky Farm. This tour was no ordinary tour, this tour was specialized for the class. Students were walked through the zoo and were shown key OHS elements of the enclosures, the animals and even the carpark. Elements as simple as signage, and as essential as properly built enclosures.

Every part had its purpose. Chris and his wife Sam first showed us the snake, which for obvious reasons has its risks. The snake itself was non-venomous, and has been trained to interact with humans safely. If something did go wrong, Sam was close by to control the situation. All animals were trained to be as safe as possible, and all staff were trained to handle the animals adeptly.

Near the end of the tour, we took a walk to the open enclosure where the kangaroos and wallabies resided. We watched for potential wild snakes, and took care walking on the uneven ground. Every little hazard had a potential risk, and with every risk has potential problems for the Funky Farm. But the staff at the farm control every potential risk with diligence. (LOUIS)



Quilt Making

As a VCAL project in our Learn Engage Connect Young Parents Program, our teacher Suzanne, gave us the challenge of making our own quilts from start to finish.

In late 2020, once we were finally allowed back on campus after many Covid 19 interruptions, we began making our quilts. Myself and some other students completed their quilts this term (2, 2021), while others are just getting started.

As you can imagine, making your first quilt can be very daunting and I had bit of difficulty starting mine. It took about 5-6 weeks for me to get over my fear and anxiety to begin my quilt. While I was sitting around watching (procrastinating), I would see my classmates face their challenges, such as sewing fabrics back to front, or sewing a square in the wrong place and having to unpick their stitching. Once I saw their finished products, and how happy they were with their quilts they had created, I was motivated to overcome my fear and finally challenge myself to begin mine.

Once I got started on my quilt there was no stopping me. I was unsure of what colours and patterns to choose, but once I found my favourite fabric, everything just fell into place. I drew up my design, cut out my fabrics (quite a long process) then laid everything out on the ground. Once I was happy with the design and pattern I took a photo – to use as my guide when sewing.

As I saw the quilt come together I knew it would be perfect for Ilah, my 11 month old daughter. Now that it's complete Ilah uses it as a pram blanket. She loves it, as it's warm and cosy, not to mention handmade by me!

I ended up loving the quilt making process. I am currently working on my **second quilt, which will be for me**. This has been a great way to learn the skills of measurement and design, along with lots of problem solving opportunities.

By Emily Duncan

Learn Engage Connect VCAL Young Parents Program



take the time

See Publication online fmpllen.com.au



Frankston High School Senior VCAL Class 2021

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.





Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria

Bring your career to life: Chose Horticulture

A career in horticulture is more than a job. It's your chance to play a part in caring for the health of our planet when it needs it most. Your work will contribute towards a healthier, happier society for all of us.

You'll be joining a proud and passionate workforce. Victoria's horticulturalists are skilled, innovative and experts in their field.

Don't take our word for it. Here's what some of the characters from our industry had to say about choosing horticulture.

Mani Swift - Apprentice Grower, Ball Australia

"Beginning my career in horticulture was a great decision. I am coming towards the end of my apprenticeship and have loved every second of it. Being able to do what you enjoy as a job makes you look forward to work every day and the opportunities that have risen in this field of work so far have been amazing."

Bonnie-Marie Hibbs - Horticulturist, TV Presenter, Nursery Ambassador at Gardenworld

"Aged 15, I took a leap of faith to begin a career in horticulture and have never looked back. Horticulture is an industry full of variety and opportunity. A combination of hard work and a willingness to 'have a go' has led me to become a published writer, television presenter, nursery ambassador and a magazine editor; and there's so much more to look forward to."

Ben Scoble - Nursery Manager, Speciality Trees

"A keen interest in plants, especially trees, led me into the nursery industry from landscape gardening; 20 years later that interest hasn't wavered. The Horticulture Industry continues to regularly provide me with diverse opportunities to fuel that interest. It has sent me all over the world and introduced me to amazing technologies, people and places. Now I work amongst 60 acres of trees in a picturesque location and my job satisfaction is always at a high knowing the trees we produce can significantly impact us and the environment we live in."



Learn to grow today



Horticulture industry education and training is hands-on and practical. You'll be learning from the best every day. And once you start learning you can keep adding to your qualifications as you work. Once you're up to speed in one field you can start digging a little deeper and become a specialist in other areas.

There are two main pathways to enter the horticulture industry: applying for a role within a business or gaining a formal qualification from an educational institute.

Vocational Pathway

Horticulture businesses prefer to hire apprentices/workers into general roles and upskill them internally. Workers will gain experience across the business before moving into skilled roles in a specific stream of work.

Explore existing NGIV member employment opportunities at: www.ngiv.com.au/employment

Educational Pathway

There are a host of hands-on horticultural courses delivered across Victoria, supporting you to learn the theoretical and practical foundations to succeed in

our industry.

Search "horticulture" courses at: www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway to find the right course for you. Contact the NGIV office for more advice - +61 3 9576 0599 | ngiv@ngiv.com.au

INSPIRATIONAL AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

As part of a number of learning outcomes for Senior Literacy in Term 3, our class chose a variety of inspirational people to focus on and find out more information about what makes them so inspiring. We read and shared articles, watched videos, created collages and completed research reports about some very amazing people, many who struggled through extreme adversities and traumas to then go and achieve some remarkable things.

Steve Irwin

Casey Grosser

Steve Irwin is widely known as “The Crocodile Hunter” all around the world but in reality, he was a wildlife activist and conservationist. Growing up in a humble environment, Steve took to animals and wildlife to be his happy and safe place. After taking over his parents, reptile Park, transforming it into Australia Zoo, Steve met his wife Terri. He then went on to save animals all around the world, inspiring others to look after and protect wildlife.



Jim Stynes

Jackson Petersen

Jim Stynes was an Irish man born in Dublin, Ireland in April of 1966. He originated as a Gaelic footballer later transferring his skills into an Australian rules football player.. Stynes was the first Non-Australian Footballer to participate in the AFL as well as the VFL. Stynes was also highly recognised for breaking the record in the AFL for the most consecutive games of 224 games. Jim Stynes won the highest individual honour known as the Brownlow medal in 1991.

Jim has demonstrated an exceptional level of effort and participation in both sport and running an organisation focused on developing life skills for children.

Zali Steggal

Ashton Limpens

Why is Zali Steggal inspirational? Zali was Australia’s most internationally successful alpine skier, winning a bronze medal in slalom at the 1998 winter Olympics in Nagano, and a World Championship gold medal in 1999. In the winter Olympics she is Australia’s first individual medalist, first female medalist, and only medalist in alpine skiing. Zali Steggal is also an Australian politician, lawyer and former Olympic athlete. She has been serving as Member of Parliament for the Division of Warringah since 2019. From these achievements, Zali has shown to be successful in both sports and politics.





Paul Kelly

Falon Renisch

Paul Kelly born in Adelaide on the 13th of January, 1955 is an iconic rock singer-songwriter. He is known for his many lyrics and songs about Australia's beautiful landscapes, cities, heroes and symbols. Paul Kelly is an inspiration because of his ability to create songs with lyrics so descriptive that they paint such a vivid picture to the listener and his great resolve to keep performing through personal issues and drug addiction.

INSPIRATIONAL AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

Steve Irwin

Maxx Edgar

Steve Irwin became one of the best Conservationists, Environmentalists and Crocodile Hunters in the world during his time alive. Growing up with a background where he experienced and learned a lot about wildlife, especially reptiles, Steve would go on to become an experienced crocodile hunter before he reached adulthood. Later on, he became a TV personality, where he would start his own crocodile capturing show in 1992, called "The Crocodile Hunter". Steve also met his wife, Terri Irwin, in Australia Zoo in the same year that he took over management and they had 2 children, Bindi and Robert who are now to this day following the footsteps of their father.



INSPIRATIONAL AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

Colonel Sir Ernest Edward "Weary" Dunlop

Colonel Sir Ernest Edward "Weary" Dunlop was known primarily for his time as a POW and his work as a surgeon. Dunlop was considered by many people the example of "inspirational". Contrary to his nickname, he was far from weary. He was an inspiration in many aspects from his tirelessness to tend to others who needed assistance, prominently during his time as a Prisoner of War (POW) in 1943, to his love for life, once being called "a light house of sanity in a world of madness and suffering".



Joe Cha-Un



Charlie Teo

Charlie Teo is an inspirational Australian neurosurgeon. He works at Prince of Wales hospital. He has such a big heart, he will take on patients that no one else will. He has a fighting desire to help people. He has a family that are so proud to be a part of his life. He has always looked out for people giving them a chance at life again and believes in them which is amazing. When he has a patient, he tries to form a trust relationship with them, so they are comfortable. He is a truly inspirational person. We need more people like this.

Kiara Wheeler

Bindi Sue Irwin

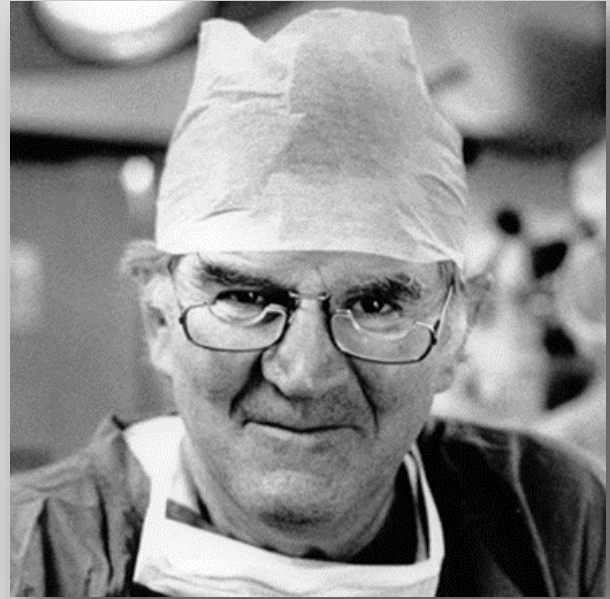
Bindi Sue Irwin is a passionate wildlife conservationist, who has inherited her parents' love for wildlife and wild places. Born to Wildlife Warriors Steve and Terri Irwin, Bindi is a determined soul, destined to make a positive difference on the planet. Australia Zoo has always been her home.

Chantelle Cockman



Fred Hollows

Fred was born in New Zealand in 1929. He grew up wanting to become a minister but after a summer job in a mental health facility his attention turned to medicine. After becoming interested in eye surgery Fred moved to the UK and specialised in ophthalmology. Fred went on to use his skills in developing countries to make optical care available to everyone. He also set up infrastructure in developing countries to produce the lenses used in cataract operations which significantly brought down the cost of the much needed operation for millions of people. Fred passed away in 1993 but his legacy lives on. His selfless work has paved the way to make sure every eye is important.



Joel Cebular

Steve Irwin

Steve Irwin is an Australian legend! He is a wildlife conservationist that is passionate and brave. Steve Irwin got famous from his own television series "The Crocodile Hunter" where he would catch, rescue, and relocate crocodiles who are in danger and need saving.

Steve Irwin was an inspiration because he loved caring for wildlife and giving animals a chance to live a good life.

Jo Mail



INSPIRATIONAL AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

Inspirational Australians

Miranda Tapsell

Miranda Tapsell is an Indigenous Australian actress and writer among other things. She is a wife, soon to be mother and an advocate for her community. Miranda is well known for her role in *The Sapphires* and *Love Child*. She is an inspiration to the aboriginal community and young women all around Australia, she stands up for what she believes in and encourages women to always follow their dreams.

Tara Garry



Steve Irwin

As the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin delighted, shocked and wowed millions. From his zoo shows to his TV shows, he dedicated his life to the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the animals he loved so much. Steve was one of the most popular animal heroes Australia has ever produced. Later on, in his career he was then killed whilst doing a live show, Steve Irwin has since been a huge inspiration to the animal life community.

Nathan Osman



Steve Irwin

Steve Irwin inspired Australian culture greatly; Steve was one to never turn away from an animal in need of help. He wanted to show the world that all types of creatures, no matter how small and/or dangerous, deserved respect and should be cared for. Steve had always been a family man, caring deeply for his family, he always wanted to be remembered as 'a good father'. Steve was a 'true blue Aussie bloke' whose energy and passion was shown through what he did, and for his family, wife Terri and children Bindi and Robert, want to keep his legacy alive.

Belinda Rylatt

Tara's Group – Inspirational Introduc-



Turia Pitt

Turia Pitt is a burns survivor, best selling author, athlete and mindset coach. She is such an inspirational person because despite all she has gone through, she is living proof that with the right mindset, we truly can achieve anything.

Elicia Soutar



Ahn Do

Ahn Do is a very inspiring and moving individual. He has written over 30 books, most of which are children's books. He is a skilled painter, comedian, and he is a popular guest speaker at public conferences, as he talks about overcoming adversity. Many look up to Ahn Do as he is determined and has overcome many negative obstacles in his life.

Elly Agostino



Life as a graduating year 12 student in the midst of a pandemic!



By Lily Mercuri (Senior VCAL student, Hastings Campus)

After finishing up at a mainstream school in 2019, I was beyond excited to start my next chapter as a Senior VCAL student at Advance College. I started in late December 2019 in the kick-start pro-

I can tell you that I loved it from my first impression and made me glad I chose this pathway. I felt like I belonged somewhere at a place where people cared about your health and wellbeing.

Not long into the start of 2020 the world had changed. This saw a change in the way school would be delivered, and let me tell you I was not a fan of it....

That change was online learning from home. A lot of challenges and emotions came from this change as it was hard to adapt to school life at home. I found it hard to focus and get work done as I needed to be in a school environment.

We finally got to go back mid-year, but it didn't last long which saw us go back to online learning. I told myself I would try to attempt and do online learning, which I did and it made me proud of how hard I worked and the effort I put in.

As time went on, lockdown was taking its toll, I started losing all motivation and hope of passing and achieving anything. But something changed and from all the hard work of Victorians, COVID19 eased in Victoria.

I finally got my license, which took a lot of time and effort, I finally got back to work and making money again and being around people that made me happy.

Going back to school and being in a classroom felt like winning the lottery. I told myself I would put 110% effort in finishing all my work so I could pass and feel like I had accomplished something. I set out to achieve that goal, and now, I write this letter today, as a graduating year 12 student, class of 2020.

It is crazy to think 13 years of schooling is done, and I am so grateful for all the support I have received from teachers, peers and family to get me to where I am today.

At times I questioned why a virus and why 2020? But I learnt along the way, that you can't change things that're out of your hands, sometimes you just have to accept a situation and make the best out of it. I learnt to be patient, because good things come to those who wait. It made me realise how important people are and you can't take them for granted.

Although 2020 wasn't the year I planned, it definitely was a year of change, acceptance and patience. Which has made me see life differently. I move on now, to go and complete my Diploma in Early Childhood and continue my part time job at the carwash.

I have been fortunate enough to secure a job at the new Beachwood Early Learning Child-care Centre.

Thank you to everyone at Advance College who made the year fun and a year never to forget.

Lily Mercuri



Do you have students that are looking to pursue a potential career in Business or IT? Our Certificate III in Business & Information Technology VETiS courses could be your solution! Here at Integrity, **we are now accepting applications for 2022** for our Certificate III in Business and Information Technology VETiS programs. Using Microsoft Teams, students will attend class **online weekly** and positions for 2022 are available and eligible students are more than welcome to apply!

The knowledge and skills that are required in the workplace will be acquired by students through our online teaching, and will benefit them drastically when working towards their desired career in Business or IT.

Our trainers are equipped with skills, knowledge and experience in delivering online learning, and are able to deliver quality training to all students through the use of our virtual platforms. Additionally, support is always available simply through instant messaging and 'teams calls', on Microsoft Teams.

If you're in Year 12, this program is a direct pathway into a full Certificate III in Business and Information Technology qualifications, while for Year 11 students, this course can be used as a pathway into our SBAT program the following year.

Completing a **partial** Certificate III course through our VETiS will allow students to carry over credits into relevant courses the following year.

We will also be offering a **half VETiS program** for enrolment. This program provides students with three units (half the coursework) to help assist with gaining their VET Credit to complete their VCAL certificate.

Class Times:

Classes will be run during the school term only, at the below days & times. With further interest, other class times and days may be made available.

VETiS Business:

Wednesday & Fridays Weekly 9:30am – 12:30pm

VETiS IT:

Friday Weekly 9:30am -12:30pm



Structured Workplace Learning



Getting work ready is an important part of VCAL and Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements are a fantastic way to apply what you are learning in a real world, work related environment. But did you know there are other benefits too?

SWL can help you to:

- Develop your independence and self-confidence, especially in the workplace.
- Increase your motivation to study and do further training.
- Learn from experienced industry professionals.
- Enhance opportunities for part-time or casual employment.
- Gain further valuable skills relevant to the workplace.
- Try out career choices before leaving school.
- Decide if this career path is really what you want to do!
- Develop contacts with potential future employers

Looking for a Work Experience Placement for VCAL?



The SWL Statewide Portal makes it easy for you to search and connect with current available placements with local employers.

There are thousands of available work experience placements or you to choose from!

The portal provides teachers and students with an easy to navigate information and referral point for a whole range of workplace learning opportunities.

Go to www.workplacements.education.vic.gov.au to find your next work experience opportunity waiting for you!





Method - Ganache

STEP 1

Place chopped chocolate into a small, heat proof bowl, set aside. Melt cream in a small saucepan over medium heat until just simmering.

STEP 2

Remove from heat and pour over chocolate. Allow to sit for 3-4 minutes, before mixing until smooth.

STEP 3

Allow to come to room temperature before placing in the fridge until it is a spreadable consistency. Spread over top of cake and dust with cocoa powder to serve.



Rich Chocolate Mud Cake Recipe

PREP:30 min COOK:90 minSERVES:16

Ingredients

Cake

- 1 tsp instant coffee (remove if making white chocolate version)
- 1 cup (250ml) water
- 250g unsalted butter, cubed
- 200g chocolate (white, milk or dark)
- 2 cups (440g) caster sugar
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tbsp (40ml) vegetable oil
- ½ cup (125ml) full cream milk
- 3 tsp Queen Organic Vanilla Bean Paste
- 1 cup (150g) self-raising flour, sifted
- 1 cup (150g) plain flour, sifted
- ½ cup (60g) cocoa, sifted (replace with same amount of plain flour if making white choc mud cake)
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

Ganache

- 150g dark chocolate, chopped
- 150ml thickened cream
- Cocoa powder, to dust



Method - Cake

STEP 1

Preheat oven to 160C (fan forced). Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm deep round cake tin with baking paper. Set aside.

STEP 2

Combine coffee and water in a medium saucepan over a low heat. Add butter, chocolate and sugar stirring occasionally until mixture is smooth. Set aside to cool completely.

STEP 3

Combine eggs, vegetable oil, milk and Vanilla Bean Paste in a jug. Add to cooled chocolate mixture, mixing until just combined.

STEP 4

Sift remaining ingredients into a large bowl, mixing to combine. Make a well in the centre and pour in chocolate mixture, stirring to combine. Pour into prepared tin and bake for 1 hour 15-20 minutes or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Allow to cool in tin for 10 minutes before inverting onto a wire rack to cool completely.



**Trinity Masters
McClelland
College**



CHOCOLATE CAKE

WITH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

SHORT STORY

I chose to represent McClelland College, using the colours of the College in the ganache and icing. It is a chocolate cake with chocolate mousse filling. The purple, teal and white show the colours of my College that have helped me get to where I am today. The VCAL program (and this cake!) are things I am proud to be a part of.

You tube Movie



**Natalie Collins
and
Elise MacDougal
Learn Engage
Connect**



QUARANTINE

SHORT STORY

We chose a Quarantine Ckae because we are all currently stuck in lockdown.

SPONGE CAKE

WITH STRAWBERRY FILING

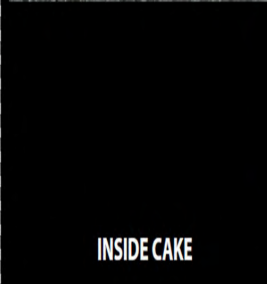
SHORT STORY

Why did I choose this cake this cake is one of my favourites. The type of cake is a sponge cake with a filling of strawberry and Whipped cream.

INGREDIENTS

- 50g x Plain Flour
- 50g x Self Raising Flour
- 50g x Corn Flour
- 1/4 tsp x Salt
- 4 x Eggs (at room temperature).
- 150g x Caster Sugar
- Whipped cream and strawberry, for filling
- Outside of cake
- Icing Sugar

**Dusan Radjenovic
John Paul College**



INSIDE CAKE





Jillie Currie and Maddison Perkins
Learn Engage Connect



TIM TAM, MALTEASER & ICE CREAM CAKE WITH OREO BASE

SHORT STORY

I chose this cake because I wanted to do something different. I didn't want to make a standard cake, so I chose to make an ice cream cake. It has my favourite chocolates included and I also chose to make it as ice cream is my favourite food. It's also a very simple cake to make that isn't time consuming.

EQUIPMENT

- 1 Ice cream Spoon
- 1 Rolling Pin
- 2 large bowls
- 1 Rubber Spatula
- 2 small metal bowls
- 2 small bowls
- 1 small pot
- 1 knife
- 1 Tray for cake
- 1 Baking paper

INGREDIENTS

- 1 x 2 Litre Vanilla Ice Cream
- 1 x 250g Block of Unsalted Butter
- 1 x Packet of Original Tim Tams
- 2 x Packets of Oreos
- 1 x Packet of Maltesers
- 1/2 x Block of melting chocolate

DIRECTIONS

STEP-1

Shave tub of ice cream in fridge to keep it cool but to also let it soften up a little

STEP-2

Place Tim Tams and Maltesers in a large bowl. You can use as much as you want. I perfectly use 1 Tim Tam and 1/3 packet of Maltesers. Crush them together into small pieces. Leave some big chunks.

STEP-3

Place 1/2 block of melting chocolate in a small pot.

STEP-11

Place small metal bowl on top of pot and use 1/2 block of melting chocolate to melt chocolate.

STEP-12

Remove tub of ice cream from fridge and pour all of it into a very large bowl.

STEP-13

Add crushed Tim Tams and Maltesers to ice cream and mix all together. Make sure to keep stirring melted



Jackson Fraser
Frankston High School

CHOCOLATE CAKE

GLUTEN & DAIRY FREE

SHORT STORY

We made a Gluten Free, Dairy Free chocolate cake, with red icing with strawberries on top, and flower icing. The chocolate wafers around the cake represent the ups and downs of remote and flexible learning. However, the richest of the cake and the beautiful decorations present all the achievements of 20 years of VCAL.

INGREDIENTS

1. 3/4 cup (80g) cocoa powder, sifted
2. 3/4 cup (160ml) boiling water
3. 2 cups (200g) almond or hazelnut meal
4. 1 tsp baking powder
5. 4 large eggs, at room temperature
6. 1 cup (220g) caster sugar
7. 200ml neutral flavoured oil (canola, vegetable, light olive oil)
8. 2 tsp Queen Natural Vanilla Extract

DIRECTIONS



Katrina Sarkosi and Katie Grant
Western Port Secondary College

BOOK CAKE

SHORT STORY

I chose to make a book cake because it represents the theory side of vcal. I wrote some of vcal's enterprise skills on the cake as well. I made a vanilla cake with buttercream icing, fondant and I used edible markers.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (200g) all purpose flour (for the book)
- 2 1/2 cups (500g) baking powder (for the book)
- 1/2 cup (100g) salt
- 2 large eggs (1 cup / 200g of water)
- 1/2 cup (100g) caster / superfine sugar (for the book)
- 1 cup (200g) unsalted butter (for the book)
- 1 cup (200g) milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract (for the book)
- 1 tsp vegetable oil (for the book)

VANILLA BUTTERCREAM

- 250g / 2 sticks unsalted butter (for the book)
- 500g / 1 lb soft icing sugar / powdered sugar, GIFTED
- 3 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 - 4 tbsp milk. To adjust thickness

Whip the eggs and sugar - Beat the eggs with sugar for a while 2 minutes until thick and shiny. It changes from yellow to white, and liquid consistency (but see double depth in the bowl).

Stiffly beat flour - Whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Then add the egg mixture in 3 parts, mixing for 30 seconds on Speed 2 in between. This should make the flour just incorporated - don't worry if there are some bits not mixed in.

Let mixture settle in bowl - Once it has been 10-15 minutes in the bowl, mix with the butter until it is fully incorporated. Because it is not, HOT milk helps with absorption in the cake. I doubled it, so I have with cooled melted butter in milk and found it did not rise as well.

Use same butter for the cake - This means the temperature is staying even the temperature of the hot milk so it won't "cook" the eggs, the temperature will be 10-15

TOP / WHOLE CAKE



Kasey Nichol
Somerville Secondary College

Somerville Secondary College 2021

Whilst we all struggled during lockdown,
the students still managed to
complete some amazing projects.



Safe Zoo Project – Industry Experience

Athletics Day - Peer Teaching and Marshalling

Eco Homes - Design and Construction

Amazing Race - Design and Implementation

Personal Projects – Getting Creative!

Beatification of Somerville - Rotary

Team Building Sessions - Primary Schools

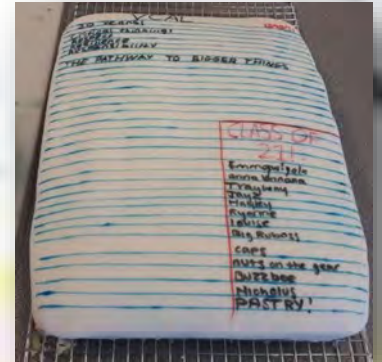
Coaching - PE Classes and Interschool Teams

Bird Box - Peer Mentoring with Year 8C

Footy Colours - Remote Competition

VCAL Cook Off – Getting Creative!

MAD Projects – Making a Difference!



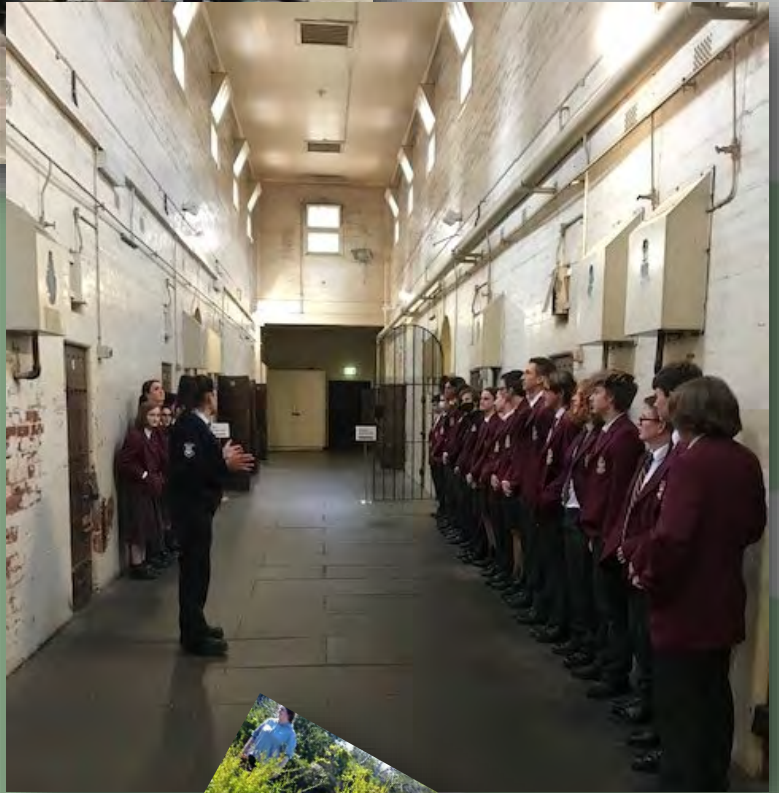
Somerville Secondary College













Casey and Emma gazing at the roof



Falon, Ashton and of Mikayla standing with local artists.



Joe, Joel, Tess, Emma, Chantelle and Jo admiring The Messenger

Emma, Chantelle, Jo, Elicia and Tara posing with The Blue Banded Bee.



Josh and Jay facing their inner demons in front of Rise



Elly in front of Dreaming Beyond Duality



VCAL Frankston Mural Arts Tour

On Thursday, 13th May, the VCAL Senior Literacy class took part in the Frankston Mural Art Walk led by our guide, Steve. The tour took in over 20 murals in 90 minutes. In those 90 minutes these are the six that I enjoyed the most.

Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland:

By Bridget Dawson and Melissa Turner

The Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland painted on the walls of the Frankston Library was extremely detailed. The Cheshire Cat was in his natural habitat which included luscious green bushes and trees that were replicated similar to the descriptions of the Cheshire Cat and his environment in the original Alice in Wonderland stories. The cat was grey and had light tones of striped lines on his back with big green eyes and a wide smile with multiple teeth.



The Messenger:

By Julian Clavijo

The young boy is Julian Clavijo's son who is presented as the last human on earth after the world has collapsed. He is wandering the universe in an eternal sunset of evolving colours. The whale, the last biggest vertebrate to exist keeps on conveying the connection of association between water, earth and air where most animals used to coexist. The bonsai tree contains the general thought of existence. The turtle, purely because Julian's son loves the Ninja Turtles. It took Julian Clavijo only 4 days to complete the mural.

Untitled:

By Jason Parker

This mural is an outline of Jason Parker's expectation for society after Covid. The painting has two people embracing with a flowing flower spiral in between the people which symbolizes the faith and love people have for each other after going through difficult times in Covid. The mural is vibrant and sends a clear message to everyone that now is the time to care and love each other. It took Jason Parker 6 days to complete the mural with a little help from one other person.



A Longing Distance Connection:

By Bret Piva

A beautifully detailed Quandong tree using paint and spray-paint was inspired by Bret Piva's hometown. Because Bret was not allowed to travel back to his hometown and visit his family during Covid, he was missing his family and their traditions and celebrations therefore he decided to create a mural dedicating his love for his family and hometown which was a Quandong tree, a red-looking round fruit that hung off the ends of branches with bright green leaves.



Get Along Gang:

By David Booth and 12 students

Get Along Gang is a collaborative mural by Melbourne artist David Booth and a group of Year 8 students from Monterey Secondary College. Over multiple classroom sessions twelve students worked with David to develop the artwork, exploring mural planning, design and drawing techniques. The final artwork serves as a portrait and time capsule, with each bright, colorful character representing a student individually, sharing their personality, thoughts, feelings, and interests currently in their life. In the mural you could see that students' interests varied with figures such as Ironman, boats, frogs, and dogs depicted.



Blue Banded Bee:

By Maxine Gigliotti

"This mural is starring our native Blue Banded Bees, that can be found in Frankston. These beautiful insects are very small just over 1cm but are super important for pollinating our native plants. Unlike the honeybee, they 'buzz pollinate' by vibrating their wings which for some native plants is the only way they can be pollinated. The Blue Banded Bee has blue and black striped on their backs instead of yellow and black stripes which makes them unique and easier to identify.

The street art that I liked the most was the 'Blue Banded Bee' painted by Maxine Gigliotti. I love how Maxine decided to paint her mural for a local animal and not an animal that is foreign. Maxine painted bright blue colors to emphasize the uniqueness of this insect. She made sure to get her message across that as a community, we need to protect the Blue Banded Bee species from becoming extinct because they are the only breed that can pollinate certain native plants.

Maxine Gigliotti is an artist who lives in Victoria as well as a teacher and performer for circus. She grew up on the Mornington Peninsula, fascinated by the natural and beautiful around her. Her passion is to share art that brings joy to the community and highlights our natural world.

The street art I disliked the most was the Quandong fruit painted by Bret Piva because I couldn't relate to the message of being far from home and missing family. I also didn't think the painting was appealing as it only has simple colours and small detailing.

The street art tour was interesting. I enjoyed going outside and walking around Frankston to explore the murals. The tour fit perfectly into our timetable, and we didn't have to rush through murals. One thing I didn't like about the tour was that it was freezing, and I wasn't prepared for the bad weather.

Steve the guide was enthusiastic and fun to be around. He explained each mural with detail and confidence as he has done the tour many times before. Steve was easy to understand, and he was happy to answer any questions that the class had about the murals.



VCAL TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Dave L'Huillier head of VCAL at McClelland College:

How have you seen VCAL change in your teaching career?

Dave has seen a massive change in VCAL since he started teaching in 2007. "Well when I started teaching in 2007, VCAL was a portable classroom in hands on learning, and had a big broken window, we had about five students and three of them would never turn up if the surf was good. I remember walking in and there would be just two people and I'd be like "What the hell is going on here?" and when I went to school, VCAL just started the year I was in year 12 in 2001 so, 20 years later, it's 20 years of VCAL now, it's really different. We've got 160 students, seven classes in VCAL, one of the biggest programs in the state."

What lead you to teaching VCAL or teaching in general?

Dave has family who are teachers. "My grandpa is a teacher, my mums a teacher, and my sister is a teacher. Yeah I've always liked working with people, but then when I started working with people, I really like working with young adults sort of teenagers, the senior side of the secondary school. The bant is better, you can sort of have good chats with them and develop really good relationships, but I really like helping young people and I like seeing them get to somewhere positive."

How has Covid impacted your teaching?

Dave didn't mind it the first few times, but didn't enjoy this lockdown. "It was alright the first couple of times wasn't it? It was ugh, lockdown one and two I thought this is alright, got so much time on our hands at home, yeah we had a little baby so we were busy, but this last lockdown is pretty crappy. I probably didn't really enjoy the first three weeks and even you get that point where you start getting down on yourself and those negative feelings are really spreading. I think just this week, when winter was over and spring started, it started getting sunnier, longer days."

What motivated you during lockdown?

Dave's baby girl kept him motivated during lockdown. "My little bubba girl Winnie probably, just having her turn one last week, so I've been able to see, she's got a new sound coming out of her every day, sometimes it's a fart or a burp, you know with her mouth. She's, you know everyday she's grabbing onto a new thing and just moving around, rolling and I think if I was working every day I wouldn't see that so I'm pretty happy for that, I'm pretty grateful for that."

How do you see next year unfolding for VCAL teachers?

Dave seems to think next year might be different for the teachers. "Good question, I don't know, I think it will be. I think this year has been similar to last year and I think next year is going to be different, I think with vaccination rates up and with everyone having a couple of years experience under their belt, I don't think Covid is going to be the thing we remember from 2022, hopefully people start focusing more on the environment after Covid and all this passes by, I reckon that would be a big feature of VCAL is how can we bring up the environment up to the floor and really focus on that. I think that's our challenges as teachers, to make sure we're up to date with everything and can help affect change."

What three places would you like to travel to after lockdown?

Dave would like to travel to Brisbane, Beach Worth and England. "Great question, I wanna go to Brisbane because my brother just had a little baby girl Eva and I haven't met her yet so I'd love to go up and meet her. I'd go to Beach Worth because I sister lives there and she has a baby little boy Elliot who I've met once but I want to see him again and I would go to Applebee in England which is where my partners from we'd show off Winne to all her side of the family and spend as long there as we could."

Trudi Renwood VCAL teacher

How have you seen VCAL change in your teaching career?

Miss Renwood didn't teach the VCAL students until the year of 2020 so she's unsure. "Okay well, I only joined VCAL in well 2020, well 2019 which was head-start 2020 so I hadn't taught VCAL prior to that so my knowledge is limited prior to that but I know that VCAL in general across the state has become much bigger than it was when it began and I think part of that is because, well when I started teaching way back in 1990 the Premier of Victoria Jeff Kennett closed a lot of schools and shut down a lot of what used to be called technical schools which were the hands on schools and the site we work on, the school you go to used to be Ballam Park technical school and lots of schools like that were shut down."

What lead you to teaching VCAL or teaching in general?

Miss Renwood always valued her education. "Well teaching in general, I always valued my education, I came from a family where education wasn't valued, I worked really hard as a student, I wasn't the best student but, I always worked my hardest and the teachers that I had motivated me so hard and pushed me so much to excel, I couldn't have done it without the teachers. I looked up to them so much and I wanted to give back something for all of the hard work that my teachers put in and I wanted to help students the way they helped me. Moving into VCAL, I've always, even before I went into VCAL, I always wanted to teach the students who needed help the most and the students who had challenging backgrounds."

How has Covid impacted your teaching?

Miss Renwood wasn't sure about the technology. "Well teaching in general I think I've had to learn, I mean I'm not the most tech savvy person and I've had to learn a lot, but the thing that helped last year when this first happened cause when it first happened I was like oh my god what's google classroom how do I do this? But I found even when we were in staff meetings, even the younger teachers were freaking out a bit so that made me think oh okay they don't know everything, and neither do I we're all learning this together and some of the students were the same."

What motivated you during lockdown?

Miss Renwood was motivated by how we all stayed connected. "Just staying connected with all of you guys and seeing the amazing work that you are producing and also my dogs, my husband, my family. Last year in lockdown my dad was still living at home so luckily I was able to even though it was longer than 5km cause I was his carer, everyday I was able to drive down Nepean Highway, look at the beach, go to dad's place, spend some time with him, that helped my mental health as well, just to get out and be with dad can't do that now because he's in age care and I can't visit him but um that really helped." How do you see next year unfolding for VCAL teachers?

Miss Renwood sees next year unfolding having a bit of a change with more vaccinated people. "Hopefully I'm still a VCAL teacher, I have requested it but that's up for the school to decide. I think these lockdowns.. well it will change a little bit once there are more vaccinated people but, we're gonna have to learn to live with Covid. Now we're starting to establish more projects that can be done at home and all that stuff so there's a bit more flexibility whereas before Covid you know the curriculum was written so you could do your projects at school and tafe all that stuff so there's gotta be more flexibility going forward for all teachers and for all students just in case this kinda stuff continues into however long."

What three places would you like to travel to after lockdown?

Miss Renwood would like to visit her sister in law in Queensland and Fiji. "What three places would I liked to travel to? I really wanna go and see my sister in law, my husband's sister and family up in Queensland, and I would love to go back to Fiji because Prior to Covid, for four years in the winter holidays, four years prior to Covid we've gone to Fiji and met lots of families and visited lots of schools and donated books and stationary, rugby balls, netballs and soccer balls and really helped out communities and I really miss doing that."

Rachelle Vows VCAL integration aid

VCAL TEACHER INTERVIEWS

How have you seen VCAL change in your teaching career?

Rachele thinks the biggest change has come this year. "To me, I think the biggest change has come this year as you guys are aware of the new curriculum and everything I think the intergraded system they're sort of running now is probably the biggest change. I think I've also seen a growth in the number of students attending VCAL and also to be honest I think the kids that are coming through now I think just when I first started such a short time like yourselves, there's a lot of people that are generally there for the right reasons and they're putting a lot more effort in than they used to." What led you to **teaching VCAL or teaching in general?**

Rachelle was put into VCAL originally. "Well actually, when I first applied for the job I was actually Put into VCAL originally so it started out by there's a position available, work with VCAL, we'll just put you there temporarily and see what happens and go from there and I haven't worked with other year levels really up until that stage because I was new to this job, I've been in other careers prior to this and once I was in VCAL and got my head around it and how it all worked I just loved it."

How has Covid impacted your teaching?

Rachelle was impacted by not being able to sit with us one on one. "Defiantly made it more challenging so I think for me as a intergraded aid sitting with you guys more onto one on one , that's mainly what my role is and helping you know, it's not just helping students I'm meant to be working with but all of you as a whole collectively I think basic one on one is much better, sitting at home it is difficult because you know I can come to the meetings and classrooms and do everything I need to do but the students also need to put their part in."

What motivated you during lockdown?

Rachelle was motivated by us. "You guys. If you're showing up, then I'm showing up. If you guys can make the effort to get out of bed and get to class then so can I. Yeah you know it's tough but then I'm also at home with three kids who have to get up and do it too. I gotta show my kids that I have to get up and continue. So I think I got to motivation factors."

How do you see next year unfolding for VCAL teachers?

Rachelle can see next year unfolding a bit better. "I think it'll be a better situation so I don't know what they're thinking or saying in their interviews but I think this year with the change there's been a bit of pressure with remote learning but they're also trying to have this intergraded program running which means all this course content, materials they're writing that's a lot of pressure I think so I think the program is better off for it."

What three places would you like to travel to after lockdown?

Rachelle would like to go camping. "Oooh travel, can't wait to travel again, but to be honest I would just really like to go camping, like we're campers so we just wanna get out and you know. I think my husband and kids I think they'd probably drag me to it, not on top of my list to go but they wanna go four wheel driving so one of our first trips will be probably high country swaging, camping which will be fun. We always, every Easter we go to Panguala with a whole bunch of friends so I can't wait to do that again hopefully that'll happen. I do have a friends birthday and we're meant to be going to Byron Bay for it in March."

What led you to wanting to help students with learning disabilities?

Rachelle was led to this because of her son. "Well to be honest you know I was heavily in real estate and other things before which I loved and where all very me and then I had kids and I love my kids dearly and I was in a situation where we made a move and so I had to leave the job I was doing. Then I started doing school help at the school when my kids were little and I really enjoyed it. Then my son was diagnosed with ASD so I think that was a massive for me."

How have you seen VCAL change in your teaching career?

Mr Ferra has seen a massive change in VCAL since he started teaching in 2007. "Massively I started in 2007 and prior to coming here I was head of senior school, in fact I did that at two schools, Wellington Secondary school in Belgrave and Hampton Park Secondary school and both schools, the VCAL and VCE leader which was me or sub school leader over saw both and VCAL used to be a tiny program at both of those schools and those schools were a fair bit bigger than ours, had 1200+ kids and would typically have maybe one class per year eleven and year twelve. So when I came here VCAL wasn't even a stand alone program it was more of a subject offering within the senior school."

What led you to teaching VCAL or teaching in general?

Mr Ferra was led to teaching by having a contract at a school. "Teaching, I guess, I studied drama at university and I loved it, and I was just one of those kids you know sort of got into it late, not until VCE age and then really loved it. Back then I did like a VCAL course by the way it was called STC which was an alternative to HSE, HSE was like VCE and STC was like VCAL so I'm one of you guys. I really liked working with young teenagers and help them find their way through life because like myself I didn't really have this clear pathway of being a teacher it was no way. About seven years after I left about 1997 I did a contract at Wellington Secondary and I really enjoyed it."

How has Covid impacted your teaching?

Mr Ferra has a love hate relationship with it. "You guys would probably enjoy and hate it as much as me there are elements to it that are really positive, yeah I get to chat to a couple of students that I don't get to often you know, it creates opportunities I guess but it's also limiting. Human beings are social creatures we want human interaction, we want to, you know not just seeing each other through a screen but you know being able to be with your friends, with your teacher in class, get all the experience. It's one of the most privileged jobs ever to be a teacher or a leader in the school."

What motivated you during lockdown?

The big responsibility kept Mr Ferra motivated. "The same thing I've sort of spoken about. The kids, the responsibility for me is big, I know, I think we have 126-127 staff here at the moment, we've got about 1023 students at the moment, one of them is my own kid so for me it's that responsibility that keeps me motivated, that keeps me engaged. I know that as a leader of this community I've gotta do my best and facing up every day. Some days I only have a few one on one meetings with people."

How do you see next year unfolding for VCAL teachers?

Mr Ferra sees next year unfolding for teachers when we get 80% vaccination rates we get back to school. "I'm thinking what we're hearing, what I hear you guys do is that once vaccinations get to 70-80% we're gonna get back to a lot more normality. There still will be things that we can and can't do, but I'd like to think at 80% particularly once 12 year olds and above which means all high school kids can get vaccinated then I think what we'll see is a lot more of going back to what we used to have but still with restrictions in place."

What three places would you like to travel to after lockdown?

Mr Ferra would like to go to Cairns and to Italy to see his family. "I was supposed to go to Cairns a number of weeks ago to watch the saints game that was like a year ago so I guess I'm always a big believer of looking after your own so I guess tourism spots, I travelled a lot of Australia with my family so I guess no where in particular. It's human nature, we always want what we can't have like in winter I like to go to warm places and I'm sure that's just human nature. Then internationally we've got a lot of family in Italy and I've typically travelled there and for a few years I haven't been able to so I'd love to do that again and give my family over there a hug as well."

Brendan Hackett VCAL Year 12 teacher

How have you seen VCAL change in your teaching career?

Mr Hackett has seen it change by the mass of students that were in it. "So my short teaching career, I've been teaching for about 6-7 years and been in VCAL for about 3 years now and when I first joined it was a lot smaller than what it is now. The numbers have grown especially in our school over the last few years, we've seen a few small changes happen in that time and then a few big changes lately. We've moved into more intergraded projects, we tried to put more of a student focus on it so that stuff can adapt and change depending on what you guys are interested in and what you find works best for you and that's sort of the goal of our program now, to be student focused."

What led you to teaching VCAL or teaching in general?

Mr Hackett was led to being a teacher because both his parents are teachers. "I guess teaching in general, good question, I don't know why, my parents are both teachers so I avoided getting into teaching as much as I could. I went and did a few other things, I did university. I did engineering straight out of school at university, and came to teaching little later on in life and I found that I just kind of enjoyed working with young people a bit more. Something different everyday, you get new people, new personalities and it's a lot more exciting getting up out of your chair and doing something. I guess I came to VCAL because I like the more hands on aspect to it. I like probably teaching the older kids probably a bit better for me to work with people about 17-18 years old. Better at communicating with you."

How has Covid impacted your teaching?

Covid impacted Mr Hackett's teaching a bit tough. "it's been a lot tougher for VCAL because VCAL is that program of really hands on and it's a lot of getting in there with students and trying things and being able to hit problems on the spot and try and solve them, Covid making us remote made that more difficult for some kids. Some kids we've seen excel and others tended to shy away from the screens and have struggled a bit more with it."

What motivated you during lockdown?

Mr Hackett's motivation comes from the students. "What motivates me is probably the students I always have a little personal motto that I'm always going to work harder than the students so with you guys popping up and getting stuff done, challenging me to challenge you a bit more and make sure you're engaged and coming on every day, getting involved. It really pushes me to make sure we've got stuff there for you and that we're supporting you. You get stuff that you're interested in. People that are doing really well at remote learning are sort of showing that they're interested and they're intrigued by what's happening and learning new things about themselves."

How do you see next year unfolding for VCAL teachers?

Mr Hackett sees next year going well. "We've picked up a whole lot of new skills over the last two years on how we can use computers out of the classroom and I think in the next couple of years you're gonna see that technology come into the class room so we're gonna do a lot more stuff using technology as I said I think it's sort of the way of the future and you're going to see it more in work places and things like that so for us to have these skills."

What three places would you like to travel to after lockdown?

Mr Hackett would mostly like to travel within Australia and go to London. "Ooh most of mine are within Australia, I would love lockdown to finish in two weeks so I can get to the MCG and watch my Bulldogs play in the grand final. I'd love to get back up to the country and see my parents in Yara Wonga near where I grew up and actually see them. My little boy probably hasn't seen them in six months, start of the year was the last time we saw them. I would like to start to travel overseas again probably

VCAL's day at Werribee Zoo



On the 10th of May, both the Intermediate and Senior VCAL classes from Frankston High School departed school at 8am on a big coach, ready to experience all that Werribee Zoo had to offer. After a long hour and a half ride through Melbourne and over the West Gate Bridge, we finally made it to Werribee Zoo.

Upon arrival, the smell of fresh animal droppings filled our noses as we stepped off the coach, and if you listened closely enough, you could hear the sounds of some of the animals in the zoo. As a group, we shuffled to the entrance and the smells of delicious café foods from the 'Meerkat Café' hit us all at once. Straight after the group introduction to the zoo by the teachers, we were off to get a taste of Werribee Zoo at the 'Meerkat Café' by filling our bellies with over-priced goodies like fresh baked cookies and pies. After a short while at the café, we decided to start our walk around the zoo before we had to meet the rest of the class at the 'Crazy Cat Enclosure.' Our first animal encounter were the ever so inquisitive meerkats, who were very excited about their breakfast and a clean enclosure. We saw all sorts of gorgeous animals, giant gorillas, playful lions who pawed at the glass, sleeping hyenas, energetic emus, and huge hippopotamus'.

Shortly after a lap around the zoo admiring some more beautiful animals, we met up as a class at the 'Crazy Cat Enclosure,' ready to experience a live cat show with a beautiful Serval whose performance was short but sweet and really showed off the intelligence of a Serval and its ability to hunt. A little later on, it was time to complete our OH&S and Risk Assessment worksheet which was talked through for us by a friendly zoo keeper who also provided an activity for us to do that helped us answer the questions on our worksheet. We then had a little more free time after our talk through with the zoo keeper and then it was on to the 'Safari Station', where all the students hopped on a three carriage safari bus which took us through the open range part of the zoo. Camels, Mongolian Wild Horses, American Bison, Scimitar-horned Oryx, and Blackbuck were just some of the animals we were first introduced to on the tour by our knowledgeable zookeeper, Rachael. A couple of river crossings later and we found ourselves surrounded by the rare White Rhinoceros', Zebras, including a 24-hour old baby Zebra, Giraffes, Ostriches and Eland, all sharing the same enclosure!

As our safari tour ended, we headed back up the road in the safari bus, but were stopped short in our tracks by a pair of giraffes who decided to stand in the middle of the road, blocking our way out of their enclosure. Rachael explained to us that the giraffes did this on purpose as a way to get food because the zookeepers had to be called out to lure them away with treats. Eventually the giraffes moved without assistance from zookeepers and we got on our way. When the tour ended, we thanked our tour guide and driver Rachael, and headed towards our coach, homeward bound.

Thank you to Ms. Bourne, Mrs D'Ambra, Mr Booth, Mr Bakker and Karina for making sure we had a fun and successful trip, and for supervising us the whole time. On behalf of the Intermediate and Senior VCAL classes, we are so appreciative to have had such a fun and educational opportunity.

Olivia Percoco



VCAL Flinders Tyabb 2021

What a year we have had. While there were many disruptions because of COVID 19 and where we got used to zooming our class sessions we were also able to get a lot done.

We were able to get certificates in Food handling and Coffee at the trade training centre in Frankston, had a great session in between lockdowns at the RSPCA and had a guest speaker from digital thumbprint where we discussed social media and all of its positives and negatives.

In term 2 we did a course on handling emergency situations and learnt what to do with unexpected fires and how to administer emergency first aid. While we weren't able to go on our annual VCAL camp we were able to do some day trips where we learnt some basic golf tips and bonded with some paintball activities.

We are hoping to finish off the year with a driving course at Ringwood and have a VCAL dinner at school inviting some of the local community groups that have supported us in the 2 years of our VCAL journey at Flinders i.e.: Bunnings, Rotary, Baxter Men's Shed, Past students and 2 members of Parliament.

While it has been a disrupted year we have learnt to use multi media techniques and resources to research topics and areas of interest. We are ready for what 2022 has to offer.

Thanks to Mrs McLoughlin, Mr. Van Orsouw and Mr. Bylart for helping and supporting us.

Millie Phillips and Jacob Rowe

Jackson:

In 2021 Senior VCAL has been improved significantly more than last year because of the extended lockdowns everybody had been through in 2020. I found that 2021 has been a great year and the short snap lockdowns have been somewhat bearable. I'm grateful to all the teachers for being patient and considerate during these tough times. Even though I am not ahead or completely up to date with my class work I am further ahead than I was at this time last year.

Lilly:

I have enjoyed commencing my final years at Chisholm. Having my best-friend by my side has definitely been a major factor in this. I have found our timetable is set out very well. Even through the times of being in lockdown the teachers have been supportive and most of the time given us more time if we ever needed it.

Emma:

Choosing to come to do my year 12 VCAL at Chisholm was probably the best choice I've made; I have enjoyed this year so much and felt as I've learnt more than I ever did at my old school. Making new friends was effortless as everyone is so friendly and open. The teachers are so much more engaged with us and make learning fun and simple. Even being in lockdown the teachers would make sure that we would stay on top of everything as well as checking up on us regularly.

Josh:

I enjoyed this year at Chisholm because I was able to make new friends in my class who I am now friends with outside of school. With the help of the teachers and my new friends I've made, I found doing the work this year a lot easier and more enjoyable because of the help and assistance I was given. I'm very glad I chose to move into VCAL at Chisholm instead of staying at my old school. I feel that I made the right decision in coming to TAFE.

Maxx:

This year's VCAL has been so much more enjoyable and a lot better structured with online learning than last year. My VET experience has also been a lot better as well, especially because there's been a lot more practical tasks being carried out compared to last year. This year's excursions were fun, exploring Point Nepean and the history behind its purpose. I chose to study at Chisholm back in 2019 due to not ever going to a mainstream secondary school and during my 3 years here, the teachers at Chisholm have been outstanding and I thank each and every one of them.

VCAL Experience at Chisholm, Frankston

I have studied VCAL at Chisholm for almost 2 years now and I have absolutely been loving it. I left my old school to study here because I felt mainstream schooling wasn't for me and I really struggled a lot. Studying in an adult environment has given me the opportunity to thrive and create great connections with my teachers and fellow classmates. I have received amazing support and I have enjoyed studying VCAL and Makeup as my VET course. Overall, it has been a great experience and I'm so happy I decided to choose to study here as everyone is very friendly and respectful of one another.

Elicia

I have been at studying at Chisholm for the past three years and have enjoyed each year tremendously. All the teachers have been amazing and I have gotten along with all my classmates throughout the years. VCAL at Chisholm has felt like a little family and it's been a really big part in helping me to grow as a person. There have been some great excursions planned, we have been lucky enough to get out for a few of them but due to COVID-19 we unfortunately missed out on a lot of the great things we had planned for the past two years. Overall VCAL is a great alternative learning experience for people who may not fit into mainstream education.

-Tara

VCAL at Chisholm has been a very different experience compared to other schools I have attended. I feel as if Chisholm is more laid back and it's easier for me to understand and get through my work, compared to the previous school I was at. I also did electrical as my VET course for a year and found it to be very interesting, there's hundreds of new things I have learnt doing a VET course here that I wouldn't have learnt anywhere else.

-Nathan

Joining Chisholm was a great change for me personally. Mainstream school didn't work well for me, as it became too stressful and tiring; Chisholm has really given me a place to be breathe as well as a more relaxed environment to be able to get work done. Attending my VET furniture making class I already had a high expectation for Chisholm as I enjoyed attending that class so much, so leaving mainstream and attending Chisholm I knew I was going to enjoy it.

-Belinda

I chose to study at Chisholm for my final year at school because I was not able to cope with mainstream schools' approach to online learning and was eager to learn in an adult environment. I was also already doing my VET course at Chisholm, so it made it all easier to have all my classes on the same campus. I have enjoyed my VET course in electrotechnology very much over the last 2 years as I have continued to find it interesting and challenging.

The excursions that we have been fortunate enough to go on were really fun. The Melbourne Museum has always been one of the most interesting places in Melbourne and the Point Nepean walk was full of incredible views.

-Tom

Why I studied at Chisholm institute is because it's a safe and nonjudgmental environment with a lot of support, and kind people. My VET experience for Design Fundamentals, was great as I formed friendships, with people who had the same interests as me in graphic design. My core classes were very beneficial as it sets up for life, and I enjoy Literacy the most as important to have as a skill and I find it interesting. High school wasn't for me as it was more structured, and you have to be someone you're not. When I came to TAFE it helped me be myself and learn at my own pace, I created amazing friendships that I will have for life.

-Elly

Charlotte- I chose to do year 12 at Chisholm so I could have the option to study VCAL as my old school didn't offer it. It was a big change moving from Mentone to Frankston, but I have found the environment a lot easier to work in as the teachers have different priorities and care more about the quality of work you produce rather than your uniform. I wasn't able to do a VET class this year so I didn't get to see what that was like but the core classes have been good to work in. The layout of classes is also better because I can get more work done in two 3 hour classes compared to four 75 minute ones.

Sarah- I chose to move from my old school to study VCAL year 12 at Chisholm which was the best decision I have made. It's less stressful when having 3-hour classes whereas at my old school classes would go for 75 minutes. I can also study my Beauty course at Chisholm which is what I want to do when I leave school.

Ruby M- I chose VCAL at Chisholm to get away from the childish bullying and clicks of mainstream high school and to get the mental support I needed. Some positives are that the teachers care much more about the person and not just the class work and how my teachers from CGEA and VCE are still around if I need support.

Mikayla: My experience at Chisholm has been one of the most enjoyable years of my education! The students and teachers are all so helpful and kind, which made it an easy transition. Studying at mainstream high school was a struggle, I was always distracted and never took work seriously and since moving to Chisholm for an education I have learnt a lot and try a lot harder to get my work completed. Overall, Chisholm has been a positive experience for me and has matured me where I've had to start becoming independent and start taking initiative for my actions.

Ruby R- I chose to come to Chisholm to get away from bullying, get more support with my learning and mental health. I've definitely been getting more support mentally, they have a great wellbeing officer here. Learning in an adult environment is easier instead of mainstream schooling but it still is challenging.

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