

## Quarterly Newsletter

This terms issue of Keeping up with MDCC has been compiled by Senior students Mischa, Jemma and Klaus. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening at Mountain District Community College this term.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Curriculum Day* *tbd*
- *Inaugural Celebration Day* *5th Aug 2022*
- *MCG Excursion* *16th Aug 2022*

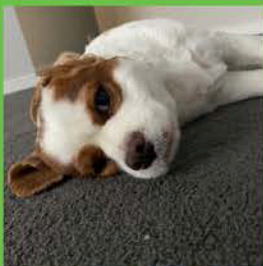
Please continue to check Compass for updates and additional events

### MEET ALLAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



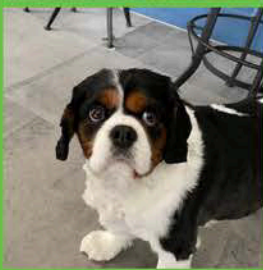
Allan has 2 Cavalier dogs, Stanley and Walter as well as 2 daughters Chloe and Georgia aged 18 and 16, Allan has been married to his lovely wife Fiona for 26 years and loves to travel with the family. Hockey is his sport of choice and both his daughters play. Allan loves golf and tries to combine travelling with golf wherever possible.

Prior to joining the team at MDCC Allan was a maths and woodworking teacher at Heathmont College.



Allan has always enjoyed teaching students that need support, are struggling or feel lost in mainstream school. He loves the uniqueness of MDCC and is very passionate about teaching young people and helping them develop as an individual instead of just focusing on the subject side of education.

Allans plans for the future are to make this the best college he can, he hopes to create a building and construction sub program once we have a permanent school space.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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### TERM DATES

*Term 3 - 11/07/2022 - 16/08/2022*

*Term 4 - 03/10/2022 - 20/12/2022*





# PRINCIPLES REPORT

Wow, what a busy term. We have been well underway with undertaking plenty of hands-on outcomes, incursions, excursions and camps. After a quiet few years thanks to COVID, we have definitely made up for lost time.

It was great to see students brave the cold weather and tackle some surf lessons to kick start our term. This camp offered up a great whole school experience where students could step out of their comfort zones, build stronger relationships with others, and create an inclusive school culture.

We had the opportunity to celebrate a few inclusion days such as IDAHOBIT Day and NAIDOC week within our cohorts, harnessing a community spirit that has been nurtured by our students and the school. This has also led to our community involvement with local graffiti artists, hip hop and rap artists, Healesville Sanctuary, The Hills Op Shop and Edgars mission. Students have conducted various successful outcomes that have drawn inspiration and/or contributed to giving back to these communities.

With the hard work from our teachers and student support workers, we have successfully been working closely with various students to harness their best learning practice at MDCC. Whether this be small group support, one-on-one support, sub-program involvement, modified tasks or assessments, we have been looking closely at each individual student's needs and supporting their growth. Starting from Term 3, we will have an additional teacher join our team to add even more support. You will receive more information in the coming days to learn more about what this will mean for your child. We will also be looking to hold parent teacher interviews early next term so keep an eye out for more information around this.

We will be welcoming Allan Langley who is our new Assistant Principal in Term 3. He has already made a presence this term and has been mingling with the students. Allan comes with a wealth of knowledge having been an Assistant Principal at various other schools in his time. He will be focusing on student management and engagement, and ongoing professional development of our staff.

The snow camp was a great way to finish our term with students getting to experience some adrenaline-filled activities in freezing cold climates. We value the opportunity for students to get these experiences and thank them for their ongoing commitment to the school values, and their overall education.

We are transitioning more and more to COMPASS to be able to create one platform for communication. I understand some people may still be having some difficulties with the application so please don't hesitate to contact me anytime to assist. We will continue to utilize emails as the year goes on to support extra communication 😊

Our ongoing success to the College is a partnership between staff, students and parents. We sincerely thank-you for that support as we continue to grow and develop with our students' needs at the forefront. As we have now reached the conclusion of the very first semester as a College, I would like to formally acknowledge the ongoing support of our Board and the Mountain District Learning Centre.

Elise Hopkins  
Principal

**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



Mountain District  
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# TERM 3 STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In term 3 the SSW staff at MDCC (James, Rachael and Tristan) will be running programs they have developed. The purpose of the programs is to teach the students life skills that will be helpful to them in the future.



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## GAMING FRIDAY'S

*By Klaus and Gemma*



James will be running a 'Gaming Friday' sub program next term. This program runs every Friday lunch from 12:15 - 1:00pm in the Intermediate classroom , this will provide students with the opportunity to play a variety of games together and socialise with students across different year levels. Students will participate in mini-tournaments, playing board games and a variety of console games. This will be especially fun as winter begins to keep us indoors more often. If you want to participate, feel free to contact James or just show up in the Intermediate room on Fridays at 12:15pm For more information you can send James an email at [james.forshaw@mdcc.vic.edu.au](mailto:james.forshaw@mdcc.vic.edu.au).



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## COOKING AND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

*By Gemma*



In term three Rachael will be continuing the cooking program. If any students would like to participate please see her in person.

Rachael will also be running a photography workshop with the aim to teach students elements of photography for all skill levels and abilities. The photography workshop will run for 5 weeks, each session will go for about an hour and a half and be run by photography professionals and Rachael.

Each week will be focused on learning different elements and aspects such as point of views and angles. Photos will be taken using phones and cameras. Students will learn photography theory and then put this into practice. At the end of the workshop there will be an exhibition for parents, guardians and whoever would like to attend will be able to see the pieces of photography the students have created. Expression of interest forms will be located on the compass at the beginning of term 3 for students who would like to participate. There will be a limit of 10 students and the cost will be posted on compass.



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## LEARNERS PROGRAM

*By Mischa*



Tristan will be running a Learners program for all students who are interested in getting their learners permit. During the program students will work in groups to go through the rule book and complete the online practice test with Tristan there to assist and answer questions when needed. The learners program will be running in term three and an expression of interest form will be distributed early in term 3.

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## COOKING PROGRAM - TERM 2

*By Rachael Kennedy*

Due to how busy this term was with excursions and two school camps, only three groups have had the chance to cook.

So far students have made potato and roast pumpkin soup, scones, chocolate spiders, rum ball slice, cupcakes and rocky road.

Students worked in their groups to produce some tasty food that they have shared with students and staff at MDCC.

Students had to work within a specific timeframe, use ratios for precise measuring of ingredients and ensuring there's enough to share. They also had to ensure kitchen safety was a priority and of course, all participate in cleaning up!

I encourage all students in the program to research some recipes they'd like to try so we can start off next term with some tasty treats!

Happy holidays to you all.



## HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY

6th May 2022

Whole School

*By Sage Sheridan - Senior Class*

On the 2nd of May MDCC went to Healesville Sanctuary, a facility that helps preserve Australia's native animals. We split into two different groups, one group explored whilst the other group went on a guided tour. During the Healesville Sanctuary tour we had a guide tell us about the endangered animals of Victoria and Tasmania such as the Orange-bellied Parrot and Leadbeater's Possum. During the presentation we also were given the opportunity to discuss ideas on how we could innovate their current nesting boxes to help deter predators. In Between the group swaps we had a birds of prey presentation, which showed birds ranging in size from big eagles that soared over us and tiny falcons that can hover in the air.

Upon return the Senior class each researched an Australian Animal and created an information booklet which can be located via the below link.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# TORQUAY SURF CAMP

9th to 11th May 2022

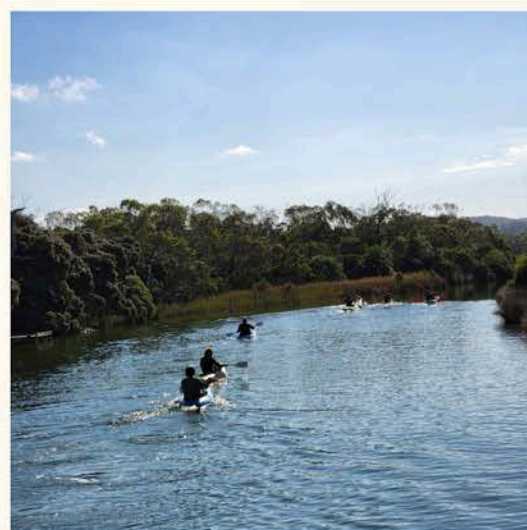
## TORQUAY CAMP

*By Daniel Rutter - Foundation Class*

On Monday the 9th of May, MDCC took a convoy of mini-buses to our Torquay surf camp. As we arrived, we were greeted by our surf instructors. They gave us a speech about how the camp would run. They then gave us wetsuits and a bright pink shirt. We then headed down to the beach with our surfboards and they taught us how to surf. After we did that, we jumped straight into surfing. The water was freezing cold and the waves were pretty rough. Everyone got up at one point and it was just overall heaps of fun. After choosing our cabins, students got to have some free time at the surf camp.

The next morning, we woke up bright and early, had breakfast and got on the buses to go to kayaking. While we were kayaking, we got pushed off the kayaks into the freezing cold water. When we got done getting our kayaks out of the water we had some lunch. Later that night we went for a night walk just around the campsite. It was cool to walk in the dark and look at the moon and the stars, they were shining so bright in the night sky.

For the last day we had one last surf session, the waves were very rough and lots of us struggled to stand up and ride a wave. We all ended up falling face first into the water while trying to catch a wave into shore. On the way back home, everyone was quiet and falling asleep so not much happened as we relaxed on our journey back to Ferntree Gully.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# TORQUAY CAMP

*By - Shane King Intermediate Class*

On Monday, the 9th of May, years 10-12 met at school at around 8:45 in the morning to put our bags on the bus. At around 9:15 we all hopped in one of three buses and left to head off to camp. My bus was just the year 11s and 12s that were going on camp so we had only a few on board. Our bus drove over to Sage's house to pick him up as he slept in. The bus trip was around 2 hours which went by pretty fast, we all requested our favourite songs which made the bus trip more interesting.

Before we went to the campsite we stopped at the beach to go surfing. It was great weather for it, not too warm or too cold. The waves were perfect to learn on too, the instructors were pretty helpful, they were very straight forward. I successfully caught around 10 waves which was really fun. It took a couple tries to get the form correct, but once you got it a few times, it became easy. The waves were mostly gentle but there were a few big ones that were great for surfing. After around an hour and a half we got out and got ready to head towards the campsite.

When we got to the campsite the boys and girls each went to their cabin. Lachy, the year 12s and I ran straight in to choose our room. We put all of our luggage next to our beds and then we set up the nintendo switch that Ben brought. After we settled in we all went and did our own thing until dinner time, I played basketball with Christian, Mish, Ben and Fin. After we shot a round, it was time for dinner, we had spaghetti and garlic bread, it was pretty average. Dessert was apple pie and ice cream which was okay. After dinner we all went back into the cabins and just messed around. It was a good time to get to know each other better. We had loud music playing and played a few games of jenga.

On Tuesday we had breakfast and got ready for a bike ride and kayaking shortly afterwards. The bike ride was on a dirt track with a lot of trees which made it kind of difficult to navigate through. It was somewhat challenging for most of us as Christian and Mish insisted that we go through the difficult routes, luckily I had a decent amount of experience with bikes so I didn't fall off and break my back. The bike ride was around an hour or so, it was really fun! As soon as we finished up with the bike ride we went straight to the river and had lunch before putting on our wetsuits and getting a brief run through of kayaking. It took a few minutes to get a feel for kayaking but then onwards it was pretty easy. We stopped at a rope swing tied to a tree and jumped in the river for a while. As our group was paddling away from the rope swing, Fin and I tipped Christian and Mish's into the water which started a war. They tipped our kayak over straight after, Fin and I thought we were safe, but it was just the start. The next time we stopped to take a quick break they tipped our kayak and stole our paddles. Later that night we had dinner, which was once again your typical camp meal. We had chicken and vegetables I think - nothing to write home about.

On Wednesday we got up early and everyone packed their stuff up to get ready to go home - not my roommates though, we all packed the night before. We had brekky and packed the buses ready to go to the beach for a surf and home from there. The waves at the beach on this particular day were very rough. We had to wrap it up early as the waves weren't really surfable especially for us considering we were only just learning to surf. We headed home after around an hour. The bus ride home was pretty boring, we were all tired. We got back to school around 2pm.

All in all, this camp was by far the best school trip I've ever been on. I really enjoyed getting to know the people I go to school with and I look forward to further getting to know everyone at the ski camp!



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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## STUDENT VERSUS CAMP

*By Sage Sheridan - Senior Class*

When I first heard about the camp I didn't let myself have any expectations so I would be pleasantly surprised by everything as the camp's events unfolded. On the first morning of camp I didn't wake up to the sound of my alarm, instead I woke up to the sound of a call from the teacher asking where I was because I had slept in. My first unexpected surprise was when they asked for my address so they could pick me up from my house. Thankfully I got picked up due to the bus route passing my house, which was lucky because if circumstances were different I wouldn't be writing this. The bus ride was long but the people on the bus made it feel short and easy and before we knew it our first challenge was on the horizon, the beach.

Each day, despite wearing wetsuits, there was a moment before hitting the bone chilling water in all of the water based activities, whether it was venturing into the treacherous waves at the beach or the murky waters of the river. These moments were the most mentally demanding, the more time you wait before venturing into the cold the more time you are letting your mind have control on your body so you always have to go into the water immediately. When you see a shadow in the water beneath you or feel something touch you, panic sets in but you can't let it get control of you. Your mind is always fearing the worst but in reality the chances of a dangerous creature being a threat to you are too slim to acknowledge the shadows.



Mountain biking over treacherous terrain was one of the more dangerous activities on the camp, in order to get through the trail you need to have an iron will and a stoic mindset, especially on the uphill climbs. When going down the steep gradients there was loose dirt, so there was no half-assing it, only a full commitment down the hill otherwise you would lose traction on the loose stones and rocky drops. Endurance is key when it comes to the end of the course as you run out of water and your heart rate is peaking. When you finally make it to the end of the trail and see the trucks and instructors waiting for you, you get an intense sensation of relief before finishing, knowing the challenge is over.

Although these times were hard, I felt closer with my peers each time we jumped over a hurdle and as the day ended, kicking back and playing super smash bros with mates couldn't be more relaxing. Even though the girls cabins and the boys cabins were separate, during a lot of the activities I got closer to a lot of girls I had never even spoken to before. For example during the kayaking event my partner was Alannah. We had to communicate in order to move our kayak efficiently and it was difficult getting that started, but the more we communicated, the more speed our kayak gained. After we had gotten our flow with paddling the kayak, we started conversing and got along, making a new friend I probably wouldn't have made if I didn't go kayaking.

Despite these challenges and the relentless cold, the people around you going through the exact same thing as you is what made it bearable. Without my peers this would've been a lot worse but they helped turn camp into a good time in the end and it wouldn't have been the same without them.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# IDAHOBIT DAY

*By Klaus & Mischa*

On the 17th of May Mountain District Community College participated in IDAHOBIT Day, which is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia and it celebrates LGBTQIA+ people globally, and raises awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination. To show support for LGBTQ+ rights the students were asked to participate in a hands of support artwork where we dipped our hand in a coloured paint and made a handprint each on a big canvas to make a rainbow blend of hands. We were given the opportunity to get rainbows on our cheeks and rainbow MDCC fairy floss and there was also a lot of rainbow foods to enjoy. We were also given the option to buy pride pins with the money going to charity.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# ARTISTS AND STYLES

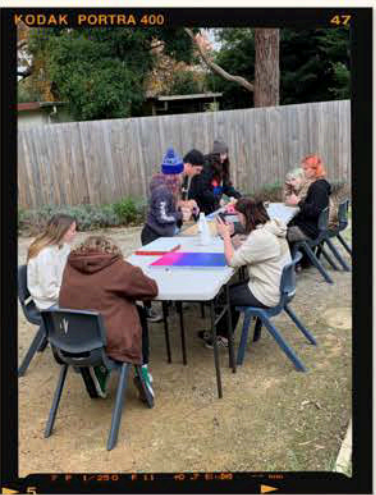
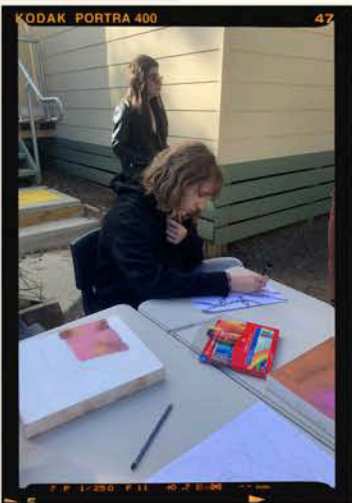
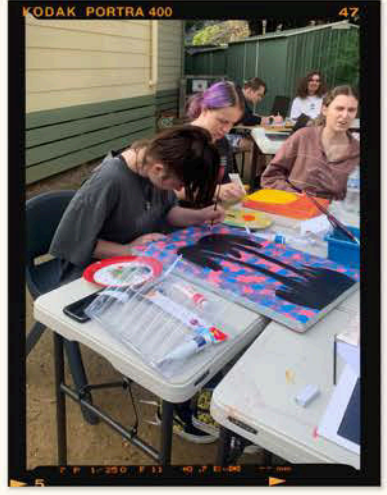
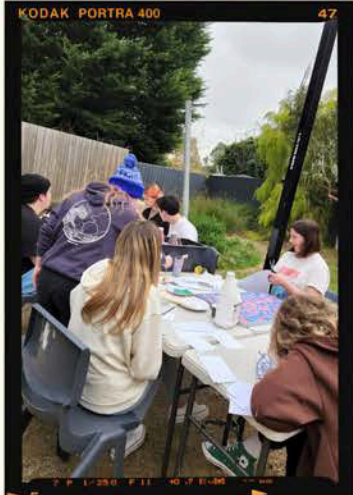
Semester One 2022  
Intermediate and Senior Classes

*By Jemma & Mischa*

Seniors and Intermediate students went on an excursion on April 5th to the National Gallery Victoria (NGV), where they looked at artists and their arts styles.

Before going to the NGV we completed a research task on a variety of artists and/or artworks. Using this research in conjunction with the art gallery visit to create our own piece.

The decision to go to NGV was to help give us more inspiration for our art creations as well as see other elements we could use in our art pieces. We are now in the process of creating our art pieces that were inspired by our research and the trip to the art gallery. Some images of this process are below.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# EDGARS MISSION

20th May 2022

Foundation and Intermediate Classes

## EDGAR'S MISSION

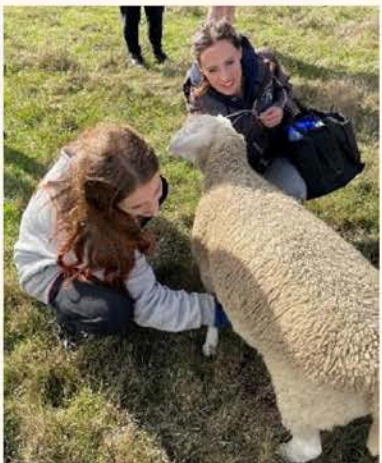
*By Sharne Pickup - Foundation Class*

Edgar's Mission is a farm animal sanctuary set on 153 acres near Lancefield. They rescue and provide sanctuary to animals in need and so far they have rescued over 400 animals.

On May 20th our day started when we arrived at school at 9am for the 2 hour bus drive. I was really looking forward to seeing all of the animals and learning about how they were saved.

When we arrived we were taken to a red barn where we were shown videos of animals they've rescued. After the video we went to the chicken coop to visit the 30 plus chickens in their yard. We fed them seeds and heard a few stories about them and the other animals.

My favourite part was being able to scratch the pigs and feeding the goats Weetbix. Overall it was a great day and we learned a lot about promoting compassion and respect for all animals.



## EDGAR'S MISSION

*By - Alex Buxton - Intermediate Class*

Edgar's Mission is an animal rescue that saves farm animals from bad situations and gives them a better life. On the 20th of May the Foundation and Intermediate students went to Edgar's Mission. We all went in minibuses and it was a very long drive to Lancefield. When we hopped off the bus we were greeted by Ruby the dog that runs around the farm helping animals settle in. The first set of animals we saw were the sheep. There are a lot of animals with a disability like missing eyes, missing legs and other issues. The next animals we saw were some cows with a calf. We then visited the goats and there were some very tall goats. We then went into a field with Weetbix to feed the sheep and the sheep came running over in a stampede and almost knocked a couple people over. They were very excited about being fed. We visited some pigs which were huge and the last animal was a very large bull which everyone got to feed if they wanted to. Then we all headed back to the school. It was a great day.

**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# HIP HOP WORKSHOP

30th May 2022  
Whole School

## HIPHOP DAY

*By Kye Barton and Freya Bell -  
Foundation Class*

On Monday the 30th of May MDCC had their hip hop day. Upon arriving to the church the first thing that caught the student's eyes were the turntable, the soundboard and the huge speakers. There were two hip hop instructors that were really talented at their jobs, one being able to freestyle anything and a high class DJ that has all the beats. The first thing they did was ask the students for four words so that they could make a freestyle to them. Those words were balls, skittles, air max 90s and potato. He did a good job considering the words that were given.

After finishing his freestyle, he then took some students from the crowd to try the sound board and mix beats and others tried out freestyling

In conclusion the hip hop day was really good and heaps of fun and it was good to see the students get involved.

## HIPHOP DAY

*By Ethan Underwood  
- Intermediate Class*

On the 30th of May we had hip-hop duo DJ Sizzle and MC Mantra visit MDCC and played some of their original music for the students. They got the students involved by getting them to attempt rapping and DJ-ing. Becky, Khy and Zach volunteered to rap into the mic with MC Mantra helping them. It was daunting but everyone cheered them on and they all gave it a red hot crack. They were very insistent on encouraging us to just try our best and not worry about others or making mistakes.

KODAK PORTA 400



Musical Futures  
INTERNATIONAL

KODAK PORTA 400



YOURSELF  
VICTORIA  
Education and Training

**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



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# FOUNDATION CLASS

## GRAFFITI WORKSHOP

*By Hannah Conod and Phoebe Ryan*

On Friday the 3rd of June a group of year 10s participated in a graffiti workshop that was hosted by YSAS which is a support youth group. They had a chat with us about how they help and if we ever need help we are more than welcome to go. The YSAS teams work with young people aged between 12-21 years. A graffiti artist called Joe hosted and helped us learn how to use a spray can and the techniques to use before we started. We then started our own street art canvas and were able to use websites and apps to get inspiration for our art piece. While we were working on our canvas, Brett, Joe and Thuy walked around to give us tips and ideas to help with what we were creating on our board. Everyone had fun and were happy with their art pieces. Some of them were fantastic.



**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



**Mountain District**  
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# INTERMEDIATE CLASS



## VOLUNTEERING

*By Amber Corcoran*

We volunteered at the local Hills Church Op shop (opportunity shop). Each Monday and Tuesday we alternated in pairs, and spent the middle session helping out the community and learning work experience skills. My partner was Mya. We got there and met all the people who work there and then got put to work. We started off sorting out wool and tagging them with prices. We then went through donated bags of clothes and sorted them into winter and summer piles. Because it's winter at the moment we got all of the winter clothes and put them on hangers and tagged them with prices too. We put the clothes out on the racks for sale. The workers were so nice they made tea and hot chocolate for us.

## BIGGEST MORNING TEA

*By Lachie Muir*

We volunteered at the local Hills Church Op shop (opportunity shop). Each Monday and Tuesday we alternated in pairs, and spent the middle session helping out the community and learning work experience skills. My partner was Mya. We got there and met all the people who work there and then got put to work. We started off sorting out wool and tagging them with prices. We then went through donated bags of clothes and sorted them into winter and summer piles. Because it's winter at the moment we got all of the winter clothes and put them on hangers and tagged them with prices too. We put the clothes out on the racks for sale. The workers were so nice they made tea and hot chocolate for us.



# SENIOR CLASS

## VOTE COMPASS

*By Christian Flores*

Leading up to the Federal Election, the Senior class completed some research into how elections work using the Vote Compass tool created by the ABC. During this task we had to go through some links on the website to learn what electorates are and how the election works with all the members involved. There were tools on how to vote, which consisted of 30 questions based on political and economic issues. After answering those questions it listed politicians and political parties that would best suit your voting preferences.

On the Cheat Sheet link there were boxes with images depicting issues such as childcare, aged care, defence, education, and climate change and things that can be fixed in our economy. The preferential voting tab explained how to complete a ballot paper to vote and where the numbers should go. The key seats module listed the key seats and electorates in Australia from the Coalition, Labor, and other parties. The dropdown boxes on each electorate talk about the electorate itself and what members are in it and their role.

This research prepared us for our future in being able to vote and shape our country.

**Get ready for the 2022 federal election**

Unsure who you should vote for, or where to go on the day? Relax, we've done your homework. Check out list below to become an informed voter.

- Key seats** (15 min read)  
ABC's Chief Elections Analyst Antony Green looks at the state of play in the key seats this election.  
[GO TO KEY SEATS →](#)
- Preferential voting** (3 min read)  
Preferential voting gives people the chance to say who they want to win the election and who they don't.  
[GO TO PREFERENTIAL VOTING →](#)
- Hidden campaign** (3 min read)  
Candidates are fighting for your vote in your social media feed, on your phone and in your letterbox. Help us shine a light on the hidden campaign this federal election.  
[GO TO HIDDEN CAMPAIGN →](#)
- Policy cheat sheet** (3 min read)  
Don't worry about paying attention to every press conference. Here's your cheat sheet to seeing what the parties are offering this election.  
[GO TO POLICY CHEAT SHEET →](#)
- Vote Compass** (10 min survey)  
Can't let your Member from your electorate? Start right here. With some quick questions about your views, Vote Compass will provide a simple map of how your views compare to the parties.  
[GO TO VOTE COMPASS →](#)
- How-to-vote tool** (10 min interactive)  
Need help seeing this election? We've got you covered on a local level - from when to return to your electorate to where and how to cast your vote. We'll even press your ballot papers to get you election ready.  
[GO TO HOW-TO-VOTE TOOL →](#)

## AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS BOOKLET

Prior to attending the Healesville Sanctuary excursion you have already read about the Senior VCAL class investigated the two endangered animals we were going to be learning more about during our workshops. Whilst doing this research it became apparent how many much loved Australian animals were on or approaching the endangered animal lists. As such the senior class each chose their favourite Australian animal and as a class are creating an Australian Animals information booklet. Although this is still a work in progress this booklet can be viewed via the below link and will continue to be updated as new animal information pages are completed. We hope you enjoy having a look at the information we have been collecting and the booklet we have created.

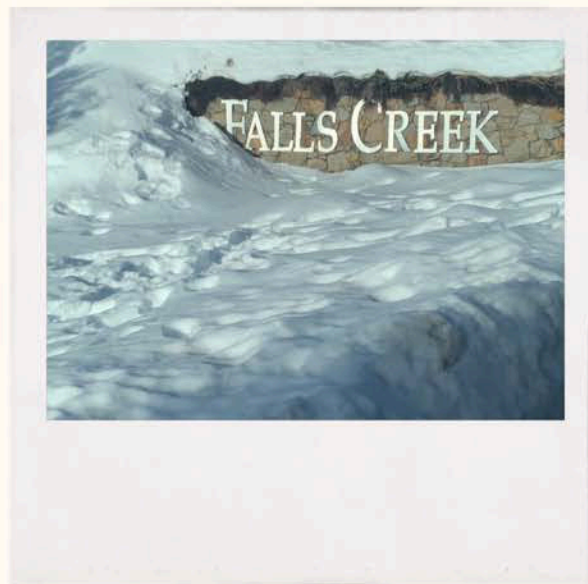
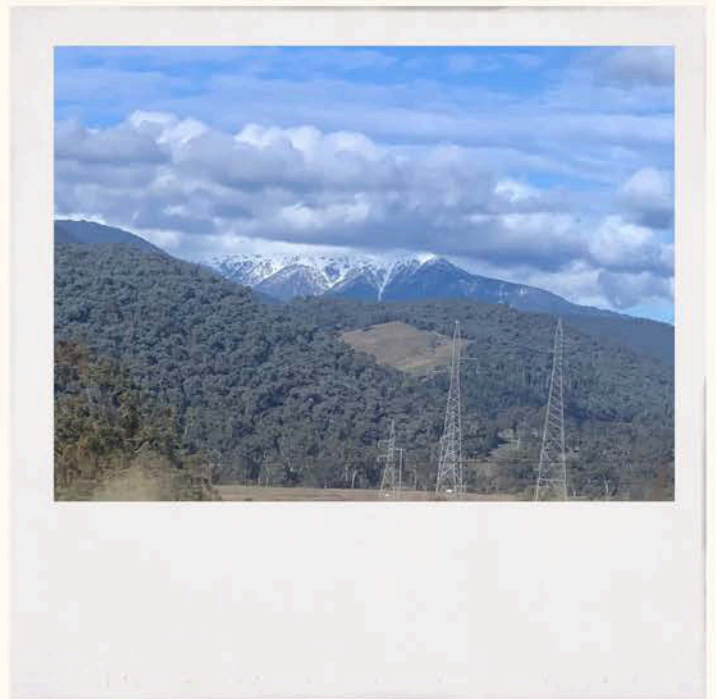
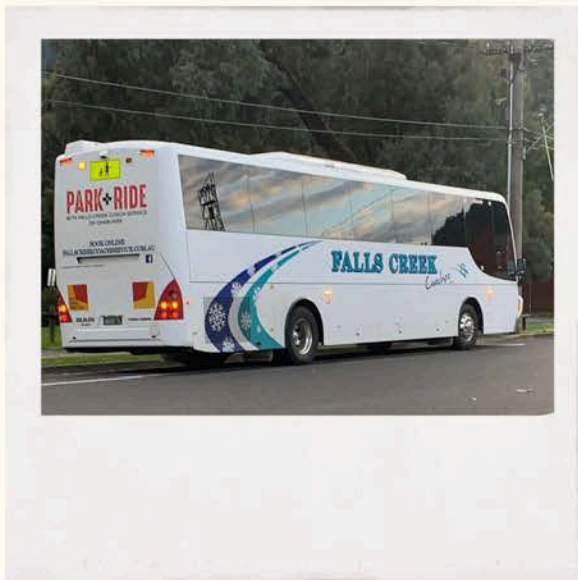
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# SNOW CAMP PHOTO'S

## *Falls Creek*

This week 29 of the VCAL students attended Howman's Gap Falls Creek Snow camp, which is run by the YMCA. Students took the 5+ hour bus trip from MDCC at 8am Monday morning and arrived at Howman's Gap, dropped off their bags and headed to Falls to collect their ski/snowboard equipment. On Tuesday and Wednesday everyone headed back up to Falls at 8am and completed a lesson in their chosen discipline then spent the rest of the day on the slopes. The Falls Creek instructors mentioned to the teachers on the last day that our "students were fantastic and that they were one of the best groups they have ever had the pleasure of teaching, and they were really impressed with their attitudes and willingness to learn, and would be happy to have them back anytime." The management of the YMCA also had nothing but good things to say about our students, so well done to all who attended in a successful camp.

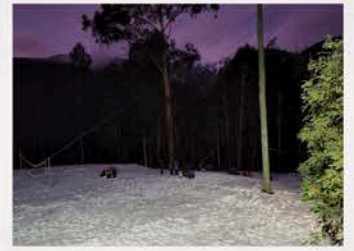
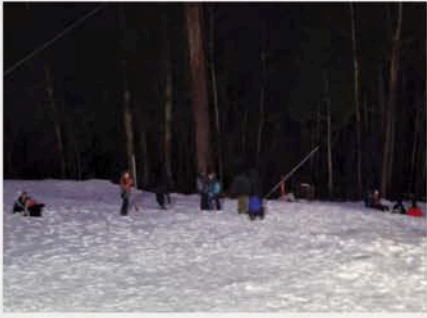


**SCHOOL VALUES WHEN DECIDED**



**Mountain District**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE





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COMMUNITY COLLEGE





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**Mountain District**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Winter S Words

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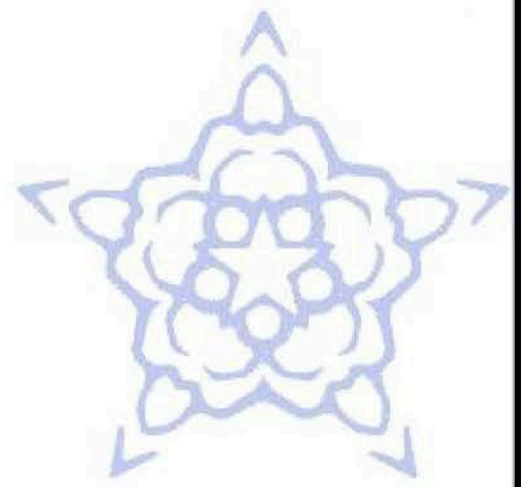
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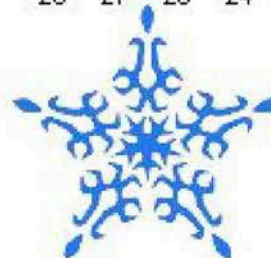
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# Winter Wonderland

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sweater

sniffle

ski

snowflake

cough

hypothermia

hibernate

mittens

Elsa

skate

snowman

chimney

hot chocolate

frosty

frozen

shiver

snowball

blizzard

hoodie

icy

sled

scarf

wind chill factor

blanket

hockey