Avila Matters cover - Year 12 Chemistry

We wish our senior students well as they prepare for their VCE examinations which commence with English on Thursday, October 28.

Pictured on the front cover of this term’s Avila Matters, VCE Chemistry student Bianca Moleta is a study of concentration as she uses a burette to analyse a solution by titration.

Photograph: Dr Sue Liston, Head of Science.

Avila Matters Principal (Curriculum)

Mrs Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Message from the Deputy Principal

Avila on track with 21st century learning/teaching

Continuous learning with clear purpose and connection to the real world is critical to developing the capabilities, dispositions and literacies required to live full lives in diverse communities and deal with issues and change in the 21st century.

Learning and teaching at Avila College is designed to develop students’ abilities to construct knowledge, to consider multiple perspectives and to communicate and collaborate in learning environments that are open and supportive.

Recently, all our Faculty Heads were privileged to attend a seminar on digital tools and their applications for learning. It was a timely opportunity to hear from some leading innovators about what’s on the horizon, particularly as Avila considers the educational merit of moving to a 1:1 (one computer per student) learning model with some assistance from the federal government’s Digital Education Revolution funding. Avila currently has a ratio of one computer per two students in years 9–12. Research shows that significant improvements can occur when the learning is 1:1 if the teaching is adapted accordingly. However, simply putting a computer in every student’s hands will not lead to improved outcomes by itself. It will be the teaching, not the machine that makes the difference. Consequently, Avila staff members are committed to developing their skills and pedagogical understandings for 21st century learning.

This year some significant change has occurred in the physical learning environment at Avila. The widespread introduction of interactive white boards (IWBs) across the school has enabled much more effective integration of digital technologies that connect students easily and readily to the real world. Each IWB has an iMac computer attached, thus facilitating very fast access to a vast range of resources and tools, including the Internet.

Teachers and students have experimented and learnt how to use the IWBs and computers in a broad range of ways such as creating engaging flip charts for teaching with images and film embedded; solving complex problems with sophisticated interactive Maths tools; annotating and editing text or debating vocabulary choice in English classes; playing simulation games in Commerce, History and Geography; and videoing the application of skills in Physical Education classes then using the film to reinforce and review the learning. Art students have been given access to international galleries and artists via the web and Music classes have undertaken virtual visits to international concert halls. Some students have produced podcasts that have been uploaded onto the Avila intranet for revision and assessment. Class blogs and wikis, which encourage collaborative and creative-thinking, are also being used with increasing frequency at Avila.

Contemporary learning is personalised and engages learners in creating new knowledge and understanding by thinking and working creatively, exploring and experimenting, planning and reflecting, and communicating and collaborating (Learning Centred Schools- A Sacred Landscape, 2009). The ubiquitous use of both the IWBs and Mac books across the school enriches the learning process at Avila enabling students to work individually and collaboratively to build new knowledge and understandings through access to local and global networks.

Under the guidance of Maths teacher, Ms Vivienne Hughes, Year 9 students Laura Stevens (left) and Kelsey Gannon, benefit from the introduction of interactive white boards (IWBs) in classrooms throughout the college.

UNESCO Report

Continuous learning with clear purpose and connection to the real world is critical to developing the capabilities, dispositions and literacies required to live full lives in diverse communities and deal with issues and change in the 21st century.
Premier’s Award tops list of achievements

Heading the list of student achievements at Avila College in Term Three was the presentation of a prestigious Premier’s Award to Talisa Trantino for her VCE performance in Design and Technology in 2009.

Talis, who has commenced a four-year Bachelor of Design (Fashion) at RMIT, received the award for the design and production of an after-five garment. Talisa, 18, said she put a lot of work into the project but didn’t expect to get the perfect score which earned her the Premier’s Award.

Drawing on her flair for design and creativity and interest in business, Talisa has adopted a multi-faceted approach to her career path with a desire to work in fashion design, illustration and journalism. Pursuing opportunities in New York, London and possibly Japan are high on her list of priorities either during or upon completion of her rigorous degree course.

For her VCE, Talisa undertook English, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Italian, and Design and Technology, and unit 3/4 Visual Communications in Year 11. She enjoyed the mix of subjects and the broad foundation of knowledge they provide. She noted that her Maths has been very useful already in her textile science and pattern making subjects.

To those students interested in design, Talisa said: ‘There are no boundaries. Have fun with it ... that is how amazing things are designed’.

Talis’s Premier’s Award projects is one of six student art works featured in the recently produced set of Avila greeting cards. The cards are available for purchase at the front office.

See page 5 for details of more wonderful and diverse student achievements ...
When Mrs Dalwood retired she had hoped to spend some more time in Africa, a place to honour the memory of someone who'd had a profound impact on their life. She had found the 'story' as Chris did. Many of her past students came to her funeral, to discuss in depth the relationship between religion and society. Her approach was commended by the teachers of the subject who were present on the night.

A woman of great wisdom, courage and faith

Retired long-serving staff member Mrs Christine Dalwood was a much loved member of the Avila community and we were deeply saddened when she passed away on Monday July 5, after a battle of some years with cancer.

A teacher at Avila from 1990 until her retirement in 2008, her influence on our community is immeasurable and we are the richer for having known her.

Mrs Dalwood was a woman of great wisdom, courage and faith. She came late to teaching but brought with her a great love of literature and a belief in the great potential of all young people. During her time at Avila, she was editor of the school magazine, teacher-leader of the SRC and Student Leaders and the founder of the Social Justice group in 2000. She was a Year 10 Co-ordinator and the English Co-ordinator. Mrs Dalwood always encouraged and inspired our young women to believe in themselves and the story that was theirs. She was a woman of great wisdom, courage and faith. She came late to teaching but brought with her a great love of literature and a belief in the great potential of all young people. During her time at Avila, she was editor of the school magazine, teacher-leader of the SRC and Student Leaders and the founder of the Social Justice group in 2000. She was a Year 10 Co-ordinator and the English Co-ordinator. Mrs Dalwood always encouraged and inspired our young women to believe in themselves and the story that was theirs. She was a woman of great wisdom, courage and faith. She came late to teaching but brought with her a great love of literature and a belief in the great potential of all young people. During her time at Avila, she was editor of the school magazine, teacher-leader of the SRC and Student Leaders and the founder of the Social Justice group in 2000. She was a Year 10 Co-ordinator and the English Co-ordinator. Mrs Dalwood always encouraged and inspired our young women to believe in themselves and the story that was theirs. She made a real difference in the lives of so many students and she did this with a wry smile and twinkling eyes as she dealt with the volatile world that comes with teenagers! Her wisdom was also sought by her colleagues, especially those new young teachers, and Mrs Dalwood would mentor them and encourage them to strive for excellence. Mrs Dalwood taught Literature to countless numbers of students and the class would often grapple over the meaning of the poem or argue over the merits of the characters presented, but they too came to love the 'story' as Chris did. Many of her past students came to her funeral, to honour the memory of someone who'd had a profound impact on their life.

When Mrs Dalwood retired she had hoped to spend some more time in Africa, a place she dearly loved. She actively supported the Vanessa Grant School for Girls in Kenya, and a scholarship has been set up in her memory. Mrs Dalwood's impact will continue not only with the Avila students and staff, but in the education of these young girls also.

Mrs Dalwood is survived by her husband Peter and her children, Matthew and Fiona.

Mrs Dalwood during a visit to Africa.

Mrs Christine Dalwood
(14/03/52 - 05/07/2010)

Past student tribute

Upon her retirement in 2008, Mrs Dalwood was touched by a letter she received from past student, Claire Rochecouste, who was, at the time, Third Secretary and Vice Consul at the Australian Embassy in Buenos Aires. The following excerpt has been printed with the permission of Claire, Class of 1998, who is now Second Secretary and Vice Consul at the embassy.

... I always looked forward to English period and appreciated the effort you took to make your classes interesting and challenging for students, and your personal interest in our lives outside the classroom. I’ll remember you as someone who was always smiling – and who taught me to begin to think for myself. There’s a reason English was my best subject when those finals marks came in, and I think that prepared me pretty well for life after Avila.

Currently I am on my first posting after joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade out of university. You should take some credit for getting me here, so I hope you’ll be pleased to know your influence extends all the way to South America – whether it is through the writing skills I rely on to dash off reports to Canberra or the love of language and literature that makes me risk life and limb on a daily basis to foolishly loosen my grip on the bus and clutch my copy of Borges during the death-defying ride through the streets of Buenos Aires.

... I’m sure I’m only one of many students whose lives you’ve touched throughout your years of dedicated teaching. Claire Rochecouste

Marnie RE guest speaker

College Captain, Marnie Banger was a guest speaker recently at a gathering organised by the Religion & Society Network for VCE students.

Marnie was invited by the Chief Examiner to speak about the strategies she used last year to make her one of the State’s top performing students in Religion & Society.

Marnie recommended goal setting for motivation; falling in love with the subject and becoming passionate about ideas; finding strategies for learning facts; always answering the question that is asked using the vocabulary used in the subject’s Study Design; and exploring ways of discussing in depth the relationship between religion and society. Her approach was commended by the teachers of the subject who were present on the night.

Marnie Banger

Sporting successes have no boundaries

Avila sportswomen are making names for themselves across a range of different codes and interests.

See our Sports section starting on Page 25 for more details about the achievements of netballers Ruth and Lillian Smith and Evelyn Andrews, basketballer Ilena Gentile, gymnast Brittany Davison, softballer Natalie Passarelli and calisthenics competitor Samantha Benn.

Also, read about the success of teams in SCSA and other competitions.

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Students excel

Avila students have enjoyed an extensive range of achievements in Term Three ranging from languages and science to design to music and sport.

Dante Alighieri

In the 2010 Dante Alighieri ‘original poetry’ competition, Avila had three section winners and a further six students among the top placings. Students from Avila also collected eight high distinctions, seven honourable mentions and 22 certificates of merit.

The major prize winners were: First - Stephanie Gabriele, Year 9 Italian; Sarah Bradwell, Year 10 Italian; and Pamela Escobar, Year 10 non-Italian. Second: Tamara De Lutiis, Year 10 Italian; and Nathalie Dabrowski and Aisling Pierce, Year 10 non-Italian. Third: Bridget Jackson, Year 9 non-Italian; Gabriela Cincotta, Year 10 Italian; Celeste Jusefowicz, Year 10 non-Italian; and Sandra Ghali, Year 11 Italian.

Medallists in French and Indonesian

Students of French and Indonesian participated in an online international language competition where they were challenged to learn as much vocabulary as they could between the August 9 and 22. The competition attracted more than 80,000 participants from 400 schools in Australia and New Zealand. Avila performed extremely well.

Congratulations to the following students. Gold Medallists - Top 1%: Courtney Lindeman, Indonesian Year 9, 2nd placed Indonesian student; Jessica Harianto, Indonesian, Year 9, 3rd placed Indonesian student; and Christine D’Souza, Indonesian Year 9. Silver Medallist - Top 5% - Isha Ranasinghe, French, Year 11; and Bronze Medallist - Top 10% - Monica Hunt, Indonesian, Year 9.

Tournament of the Minds

Avila secured third spot in the regional Tournament of the Minds Social Sciences category. The successful team comprised Year 7s Rebecca Dunn and Lauren Ramsey, Year 9s Kate Riethmuller and Genevieve Townsend and Year 10s Sashika Harasgama, Heshaya Guneseke, and Jessica Chen.

National design competition success

In another design success story, two of Avila’s VCE Communication and Design students gained top placings in the 2010 National Schools Packaging Design Challenge.

Of the 3000 entries received Australia-wide, Stephanie Berlangieri, Year 10, was third and Nicole McMahon, Year 11, was fifth.

Stephanie’s entry was for green tea packaging whilst Nicole’s was for juice in a carton. As part of the criteria their designs had to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of suitable materials and health and safety. Nicole particularly enjoyed the research involved in the project.

Science distinctions

A record number of Avila students entered the ICAS Science Competition run by the University of New South Wales, with some excellent results. Eleven students were awarded distinctions whilst 32 received credits.

Violinist strikes high note

Talented violinist Bianca Toldi is turning heads with her recent successes. At the Geelong Eisteddfod in July she was first in her under 16 section and second in under 19. Earlier in the year she topped her section at the Bendigo Eisteddfod and was also invited to attend the 2010 State Music Camp. Bianca, who has been learning violin for about nine years, said playing beautiful music, and perfectly, for others to enjoy was extremely rewarding.
Architects’ drawings have been released for Avila’s impressive new junior school complex to be built at a cost of almost $4 million.

The Commencement of site works is imminent with the project expected to be completed in time for the start of the new school year in 2012.

The new two-storey complex will be constructed at the northern end of the playing field, between the existing junior school and the tennis courts. It will feature 16 classrooms, with eight on each level, plus an open-plan multi-purpose area, and provision for offices for the co-ordinator and special education, a lift and toilets. A landscaped outdoor area will be created between the new junior school, canteen and fence-line which will add further to the aesthetics of the area.

Completion of the new junior school will help pave the way for other stages of a multi-million College building program which also feature a new library/Year 10 complex and chapel.

College Business Manager, Mr Norm Phillips, said the new junior school would be self-fund by Avila. There will be no building levy to help finance the new project but donations would be welcomed, particularly the debenture refunded to parents when their daughters have completed Year 12.

It is hoped the library/year 10 complex will be commenced within five years, subject to financing.

In addition to the new junior school, the master plan for the new building program incorporates the following:

- The Year 10 block, apart from the commercial kitchen and dining room area, will be demolished to make way for a two-storey building with a spacious new library at ground level and eight Year 10 classrooms upstairs. Year 10s will be accommodated in the old junior school during the construction.
- The existing 25-year-old library will be transformed into the College Chapel.
- The southern end of what will be the old junior school will become the Drama Department while the northern end, adjacent to Saint Teresa’s Garden, will be demolished to create more open space.
- The existing Drama Department above the gymnasium will become an extension of the staff room, linked by the overhead walkway.

Artistic talent behind greeting cards

Avila College has produced a set of six general-purpose greeting cards featuring student artwork. The packs are available from the General Office at a cost of $5.00 and are ideal for sending personal notes or as gifts for family and friends.

The cards feature the work of Talisa Trantino who received a Premier’s Award for the design and production of the garment featured on one of the cards, and Stephanie Sweeney and Rebecca Kealy, Class of 2009; and current students Christine D’Souza, Year 9, Rebecca Cincotta, Year 12, and Abby Moore, Year 8.
Hands-on experience at Avila for Business Management students

As part of their Unit Two Business Management course, Year 11 students are being given the opportunity to undertake a number of ‘live’ Public Relations projects for the College in Semester Two.

In Term Three, the first group of students worked successfully in teams to investigate, research and produce articles of high quality for Avila Matters, the Old Collegians publication for past students, and the College Yearbook. They also designed eye-catching advertisements and elements for our promotional website to help further promote Avila College to the wider community. Teams of students designed and implemented surveys of current Year 7 students and their parents to see if Avila is what they had expected. They collated data from these surveys providing valuable information to help guide the continual growth of the College.

With the assistance of Ms Sandra Bucovaz, Avila’s Co-ordinator of Publications and Promotions, and Business Management teacher, Mr Brendan Johnson, students excelled with the opportunity to assume the responsibility for real-world projects. The experience was invaluable for students in providing a practical application for their studies. A second group of students will be assigned projects in Term Four. Kyra Stimac-Curtis, 11 Purple

SRC expo a hit

Avila College’s SRC comprises 16 committed students from Years 7 to 12. Charged with the important role of representing the views, ideas, needs and dreams of all students, we work very hard to ensure that Avila students have a voice in the decision making at the College.

Traditionally the SRC holds a forum to gain ideas and suggestions on how we can make Avila College even better. This year, rather than asking students to come to us in the lecture theatre, we decided to ‘go out to the people’ ... the lunchtime SRC Expo was born!

The expo was a chance to showcase the wonderful diversity of the groups at Avila and to encourage students to be activity involved in shaping their school. Students who visited the SRC survey tent were asked to give us their ideas about uniform enhancements, new ideas for clubs, ways to improve the school environment and much more. Other specialist groups joined in the fun. The Yearbook committee had a match-the-teachers-with-their-baby-photo competition, the Liturgy Captains raised our awareness about fair trade products, the Avila Climateters had us signing a petition, the Reconciliation Group shared its message along with the creation of red, black and yellow friendship bands. Adding to the atmosphere, several senior students mingled in their latest fashions from the Design and Technology classes.

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Thank you to the students and specialist teachers for their amazing support on the day. Avila SRC 2010
I was able to feel the happiness which may only be experienced through helping others.

Li-Chun Chen (Jess), 10 Orange, Scoresby Op Shop

I gained a greater outlook on life, and I would now consider a career at my placement.

Madeleine Cook, 10 Purple, Wahrooga Aged Care

Community service was a really rewarding and unique experience. I would like to return to my placement in my own time.

Amelia Pace, 10 Orange, Saint Mary’s House Of Welcome Homeless Shelter

I felt proud because I helped people just for the joy of helping someone.

Elyse D’Angelo, 10 Pink, Columbia Park Pre-School

We will never forget the joy we felt seeing the smiles on the faces of the people we helped at the Riding for the Disabled School.

Alysha Van Eyk and Heshi Gunesekere (pictured at right)

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**Year 10 Community Service**

In the last week of Term Two, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of community service projects. They undertook a diverse range of placements which they organised themselves. The placements ranged from local primary schools, aged care facilities, kindergartens and hospitals to services for people with physical and intellectual disabilities, the RSPCA and even Auskick. Throughout the week the girls were faced with many challenging but rewarding tasks. They gained skills and knowledge they may not have otherwise had and had the opportunity to feel the rewards of giving back to their own community.

I felt proud to be able to help and see how other people could enjoy a quality life even though they were different from others. Charlie Oxley, 10 Gold, pictured at right during her placement with Inclusion Melbourne (an organisation that works with people with disabilities)

I learned a lot about the less fortunate and under-privileged in our society, which in return enabled me to learn more about myself. Rebecca Connors, 10 Silver, Saint Vinnies Bayswater

I learned to take responsibility for my own actions and be punctual and dependable. Christina Alappadan, 10 Gold, Ashwood Special School

It gave me a greater awareness of how others live and also helped develop my confidence when talking in front of a large audience.

Aisling Pierce, 10 Red, Wahrooga Aged Care

Alex McLennan helping out at Ageing Together at Scotchmans Creek

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This page was created by Year 11 Business Management students Danielle Palombi and Audrey Cavalera for a unit on Public Relations and Marketing.
Term Three is always a busy term with much happening! In the wintry weather our girls are involved in a myriad of activities as well as beginning to look forward to next year with subject selection and voting for our 2011 leaders. Our new Principal has been announced and other staff have signalled they may move in different directions also. But amidst all this change and ‘moving forward’ as Ms Julia Gillard would remind us, there is a familiarity within our Church year. During this past term we have been listening to the readings from the Gospel of Luke. Luke’s Gospel is one that is often seen as dealing with justice, an area Year 10 and Year 8 students have been studying closely this term. He writes for a Gentile audience helping them understand what the Kingdom of God should look like. The Gospel reminds us that we are called to make the Kingdom a reality in our world, to share the message that Jesus taught. Each year we hear familiar stories from our Gospels, and sometimes we can feel complacent about them, but it is sometimes the regularity that reassures us and reminds us of what gives purpose and meaning to our lives. This message is at the core of what we seek to impart to the students at Avila.

In August, the Year 12 cohort gathered for their last Christian Living Day – it was a time for reflecting on what they will take into the wider world with them after 13 years of Catholic schooling. They heard wonderful speakers who shared some of their own stories and inspired the girls in the ways they can live authentic lives which reflect their Christian values.

The Year 10s had a Christian Living Day where they were challenged to think about the choices they are making in their day-to-day lives. They had a wonderful time together, reflecting and singing and dancing and found it a relaxing way to end the term.

The Year 9s also participated in a busy day experiencing the many aspects of our Church in Melbourne. Their study of the Australian Catholic Church led to them to visit St Patrick’s Cathedral, the spiritual centre of Melbourne and the Mary MacKillop Centre, the Sacred Heart Mission and Ozanam House. Many of the students were amazed at the ways our Church is so vibrant and active in Melbourne today.

Towards the end of the term, Years 10 and 7 students celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament allows us to reflect upon the way we are living our lives. This can sometimes be challenging, and even more so to realise that sometimes we can be too self-centred or busy to contemplate our actions and that their effects may not always be good. It is a time to focus on God in our lives and to recommit to living the life we are called to live, fully and in the light of Christ. At Avila, we are blessed to have parish priests who are generous with their time so that the girls can celebrate this beautiful sacrament.

October is a very exciting month for us in Australia as we celebrate the canonisation of our very first saint. Kiara Goldsmith from Year 10, will represent Avila in Rome but there will be much happening in Melbourne also. I wish you all a restful and safe holiday before we commence the very busy Term Four.

Mrs Marie Stuart
Faith Development Co-ordinator

Avila Matters Term 3, 2010 - 9
My family and I had the privilege in the last weeks of Term Two to visit and spend a week at Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte in Arrernte), an Aboriginal Community near Alice Springs. This was one of the highlights of our trip through Central Australia and an experience we will never forget.

One of the first things we saw as we approached Santa Teresa was the church at the top of the road and a stark white cross on the hill behind. The church is an important part of the community. The women have painted the inside with beautiful murals that depict their spirituality. Close to the church is the Women’s Healing Centre where we had a healing by Mia one of the elders. The women are a strength within the community. It is well worth the climb to the top of the hill to the base of the cross to spend some time just looking at the amazing view and reflecting on where you are. The sunsets are worth seeing from there as well.

When we arrived at Santa Teresa we were welcomed into the community. On the first night we visited ‘The Club’, a tin shed where the local youths gather and play basketball, kick a footy and socialise. The next day we were lucky enough to work in the local school, performing science demonstrations and activities. The purpose was to ‘wet’ the students appetite and show them ‘how things work’. I found the teachers and the students to be friendly and accepting. So much of their time is about learning the basics so it was nice for them to do something fun and different. At night we set up a telescope so the students could view the stars and moon. They were in awe of the beauty and magnitude of space; from a closer view. The number of stars in the sky was a truly amazing sight.

It was wonderful to be invited to the school assembly that recognised the efforts of the students. They are given awards for attendance (one of their big issues) and effort, as well as celebrating their results. It is also a credit to the wonderful work of teachers and the programs on offer such as the breakfast and lunch program. The literacy and numeracy levels have improved greatly from the start of this year.

I never really understood what a vocation was until I saw the work that the Marist Brothers do in the Santa Teresa community. They have committed their life to helping others and are true witnesses to their faith. I also thank them for their kind hospitality in hosting my family for the time we were there.

I have come back with a deeper interest in Aboriginal culture and understanding of the need for reconciliation. The experience has made me realise how lucky we are and how important a good education is for the future. If I have inspired one of the students to come to school for another day then it was worth it.

To the Year 10 students and staff currently at Santa Teresa, I wish them a life-changing experience that they can embrace and retain in their hearts to make a difference for the future of Aboriginal people.

- Year 7 Gold student Sophia Elliott and her family travelled to a number of remote communities in the Northern Territory including Santa Teresa during the Term Two break. Drawing on her amazing experiences, Sophia has spoken to the Reconciliation Group about the impact of the Intervention on the communities and how inspired she was after meeting some of the elders.

- As part of her Medical Degree with ANU, Past student and 2004 College Captain, Connie Chong has been working at the medical clinic at Santa Teresa.

Avila teacher Mrs Lisa Moloney and her family visited the Santa Teresa mission to provide assistance but they came away feeling far richer themselves from the experience. In the following account, Mrs Moloney, shares the Santa Teresa chapter of her family’s central Australian adventure.

Wheeling and dealing in books to support Indigenous literacy are Year 7s, from L-R, Jaimee Hall, Georgia Vance and Margaret Hurly.

Indigenous Literacy fundraiser

Avila’s Reconciliation Group and Library staff ran a fund-raiser for National Indigenous Literacy Day on September 1

Almost $400 was raised from the sale of second-hand books and pizza. The money will go towards providing reading and writing materials for children who lack such things in remote communities in northern and western Australia.
NAIDOC Week launches busy term

NAIDOC Week marked the start of a busy term for the Reconciliation Group.

NAIDOC week is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Here at Avila we celebrated in our own style with Year 7s attending the City of Monash’s NAIDOC Week Art Show at the Highway Gallery.

Next was our main fundraiser for the year, a casual clothes day, with the girls encouraged to wear a touch of red, yellow and black to commemorate the day. A cake stall attracted hungry crowds and much enthusiasm on a cold, wintry morning. We were also lucky to have a group of Year 11 Drama students perform their ensemble at lunch, which was centred on the theme of Aboriginal identity. All the money raised throughout the day will help support the Opening the Doors Foundation, which enables Koori kids to go to Catholic schools by providing them with books and uniforms. The day was a great success and we appreciate all the support for what we do in the Reconciliation Group.

Opening the Doors Foundation 9th birthday celebration

Avila was privileged to be invited to the 9th birthday celebrations of the Opening the Doors Foundation at Genazzano College.

Guest speaker for the evening was Bruce Pascoe, a Wathaurong man from Gippsland who is an author, historian and researcher of languages – you may remember him from the SBS series, ‘The First Australians’. He spoke to the students present with passion about their need to become researchers, teachers, lawyers so that the true history of Australia can be found, taught and protected. A highlight was our own Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley winning a beautiful piece of Wathaurong glass in the raffle on the night.

Beth Corkill
Reconciliation Captain

Mrs Christine Valladares, Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator

Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum

Muthi Muthi elder and Co-ordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Vicki Walker Clarke, spent a morning in the Avila community speaking to the girls about her story; issues facing her community; and approaches to Australian History from an Aboriginal perspective.

Vicki began with an informal chat with the students who have just left for Santa Teresa; followed by a session in which the Year 11 Drama students discussed their ensemble performances which explored Aboriginal themes. Vicki then spent time with three of the Year 10 classes who are studying Social Justice and are challenged by the justice issues that are embedded in Australia’s history. This theme was continued with a session with the Year 9 History classes that look at Aboriginal people in Australia’s history. At the end of a busy morning, Vicki had lunch with the Reconciliation Group before heading to St Christopher’s in Syndal. It was a day that challenged both staff and students to recognise the need for Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum.

Vicki Walker Clarke with Avila’s Reconciliation Group

Mrs Christine Valladares, Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator

Avila Matters Term 3, 2010 - 11
A group of senior Avila girls were honoured to be the only school students to attend a Human Rights conference at the State Library on July 16.

The five year 11 and 12 students - Marguerite Sowersby, Beth Corkill, Stephanie Jenkins, Fiona Canny and Georgia Delaney - enjoyed the unsupervised excursion to the conference hosted by Monash University’s Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Although the youngest present, the presentations challenged us to think a bit harder about our understanding of political order and human rights.

Most of the lectures focused more on global issues than law itself, including the status of human rights in China, the boundaries of internet freedom and ‘future justice’ - in other words our responsibilities to protect future generations’ human rights. Several others were specific to Australian law – refugee rights and politicians, charters of rights, and equal opportunity in areas of religion, disability and marital law.

All of the speakers were interesting and explained complex ideas in depth as well as answering some knotty questions. It was an engaging discussion of possibilities for the future and left us optimistic, if exhausted, about the validity of pursuing advocacy for the rights of others. The conference was a good opportunity for us to think about a career in law but more importantly for us to understand issues which our society will have to face in the near future. We thank Avila for providing us with the opportunity to attend – it was a thought provoking and enjoyable day and a privilege to have been invited. It was lovely to discover that one of the organisers, Janice Hugo, is a past Avila student. We were also made welcome by another past student, Dr Julie Debeljak who is the Deputy Director, Castan Centre for Human Rights. Julie has been a senior lecturer in Law at Monash University since 2007.

Georgia Delaney, Year 11

The Building Bridges Program that has operated this year is coming to an end. The main event this term was a full-day activity in which students from the participating schools were provided with an opportunity to provide service to a community. We, in the Central Zone, were involved in a re-vegetation project in Cranbourne that will provide a wildlife corridor for animals to the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. The day was very wet and cold, but all of the Year 10s showed their resilience and stamina planting grasses and bushes under the supervision of the City of Casey. We would like to thank Mr John Beekhof and his wife, Nicola (who is Manager of Environment at the City of Casey for their assistance in organising this activity. The time spent working with students from other schools and belief systems provided a way to cement the friendships that have been forming in the evening meetings held last term.

ST JUDE’S WANTS YOU

St Jude’s Youth Group in Scoresby is inviting Avila students to come along and join in the fun on a Friday evening. Students in Years 9 to 12 particularly have the opportunity to be involved as leaders to run events and activities and at the end of a six-month period will receive a written reference and certificate. Youth Group Co-ordinator, Miss Bronwyn Dean, said there was already quite a strong Avila presence in both the junior and senior groups but she would like to expand even further. She noted that Year 10 Avila students have co-ordinated a large youth group camp and also one of the Friday night youth group programs this year.

‘I have always been aware of a negative perception about events associated with the church ... but I have realised that a lot of other people around my age are actively involved in church events,’ said Bronwyn, 21, who juggles her role with her university studies. ‘Our youth groups at St. Jude’s are a lot of fun. We play games, organise activities and run events such as our recent “Cabaret” variety concert enjoyed by an audience of more than 90 people. It is a great place to meet new people and have a good time in a safe environment.’

The next youth group meet will be on Friday, October 22. For further information contact Bronwyn on 0459 759 687.

ST JUDE’S WANTS YOU

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ST JUDE’S WANTS YOU
When Justin married Sally

Federal elections aside, Saturday August 21 was an auspicious day for Head of Drama, Mr Justin Cash, when he and his bride Sally Druitt exchanged wedding vows at The Gables in East Malvern.

Justin and Sally were joined by colleagues from Avila as well as family and friends for their special day. Justin and Sally initially met at Avila where Sally taught Science in 2002/2003. Due to their respective teaching commitments, Justin and Sally will spend the Term Three holidays honeymooning in the Philippines and Hong Kong.

Irish flavour for home economics

During the second week of Term Three I was fortunate to attend the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) Council meeting at St Angela’s College for Home Economics in Sligo, Ireland with approximately 250 delegates from around the world. The theme of the conference was, ‘Vision 2020: Home Economics, Changing Perspectives in a Changing Environment’, which was so apt for us as educators when we consider the changing directions for our Australian curriculum and the engagement of new learning technologies into the 21st century.

While the focus was a global perspective, the theme still held much relevance for me as a teacher of VCE Health and Human Development and the consideration of issues such as gender equity, global hunger, poverty and sustainability. I have already been able to use some of the knowledge gained and share with my students in class.

Some of the key note presentations included Mary Coughlan, Minister for Education and Skills in Ireland; Marcela Viarreal, FAO Rome, Director Gender, Equity and Rural Employment; Professor Martin Caraher, Professor of Food and Health Policy at City University, London; and Dr Dympna Devine, lecturer in sociology at the national University of Ireland.

Throughout the five day conference I was also able to attend numerous concurrent sessions and workshops with varying themes. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to network with colleagues from developed and developing countries and appreciate some Irish hospitality and culture.

Counsellors gather at Avila

Avila hosted the Term Three Catholic Secondary Support Services (CSSS) meeting on July 20. CSSS is comprised of a group of school counsellors, psychologists and social workers that work in Catholic schools in the inner Eastern region. Once each term, different schools host the network meeting where we share professional information, case studies and support each other professionally. This term we discussed topics such as changes happening in various schools, cyber safety professional development, and school wellbeing. Some of the schools represented at this meeting included Xavier College - Kostka Hall, Mazenod, St Kevin’s and OLSH.

Mrs Rachael Janssen, School Counsellor
Beauty and the Beast

This year Avila and Mazenod presented their 30th combined musical, Beauty and the Beast. Opening night was on Wednesday July 21, however preparation for this spectacular show began many, many months beforehand.

For we Avila girls, the process started in February when we took part in two auditions for dance and singing. There was a great atmosphere at the auditions and the anticipation began for the cast lists. For all those who tried out it was a great experience, but for those who made the final list, the experience was just about to start. What was to follow was five months of intense Sunday morning rehearsals full of dancing, singing and the most amazing costumes! As the performance week drew closer rehearsals became more frequent as we found ourselves spending half our school holidays rehearsing at Mazenod College, but it was all to pay off in that final week, which to all those who have taken part in musicals know, is one of the most amazing weeks!

During the rehearsal period the troupe had grown quite close and anticipation was mounting as opening night approached. Rehearsals were long and exhausting and by the time show time actually came around everyone was about to conk it! Opening night however, finally came and was close to being a full house. The empty theatre which we had rehearsed in for the previous three days was now full and the noise of the crowd was almost overwhelming. Five minutes before showtime and the cast took their places in the wings gearing up to perform. The curtains opened, the spotlights beamed down on us and the orchestra began to play the music. After the first chorus number, the adrenalin really started to kick in and the magic of performance cast its spell. For the next three days, the cast ran on excitement and adrenalin and before we knew it, we were applying our makeup and getting dressed into our costumes to perform our final show! We'd done our last microphone checks (which had turned into our pre-entertainment before the actual performance) and although exciting, the idea that this would be our final show for the year 12s had begun to hit home. By the time the final curtain dropped the cast had already begun screaming and hugging each other, and a few shed some tears. After all the months of dragging ourselves out of bed on a Sunday morning, complaining about why we had every put our hands up, no one wanted it to end! The experience was indescribable and one that all who were apart of can take away and remember for a lifetime!

Thank you to all those who made it possible including Director Mr Ken Nailon, Musical directors Mr Doug Leutchford and Mrs Jason Mears, Choreographer Ms Laura Blomford, Mrs Kaye Williamson (Costumes), the stage crew and the many others who all helped tirelessly behind-the-scenes to make Beauty and the Beast such a success.

For the first time this year, each performance was dedicated to a charity working with those in need. The recipients, chosen by the cast and crew, are beyondblue, SCOPE (Working with People with Disabilities), Jane McGrath Breast Cancer Foundation and the Prostate Cancer Council of Victoria.

Melissa Larcombe, Drama Captain
Annie Gramatakos, Drama Vice Captain
Rising to the challenge

Avila’s public speakers and debaters have risen to the challenge of many opportunities to in Term Three.

Public Speaker of the Year

It is becoming increasingly important for students to be able to confidently deliver ideas in a manner that stimulates and entertains an audience. Avila girls have come to enjoy hearing their peers present arguments that deal with important issues with poise, confidence and humour. The Public Speaker of the Year Competition has provided the main forum for this with the winners speaking on topics stretching from Australia’s relationship with China and national internet filtering through to our perceptions of the Australian male. Congratulations to this year’s Public Speakers of the Year: Stephanie Jenkins (Year 12), Adele Pellizzari, (Year 11), Gabriela Cincotta (Year 10), Hayley Tait (Year 9), Tamar Haigazian (Year 8) and Sophia Elliott (Year 7).

Public Speaking and Debating Week highlights

The third Avila Comedy Festival boasted a depth of comedic talent with newcomers like Amy Hastings from Year 10 and the now much anticipated performances of Alex Height to Marnie Banger and Sam Laguyo doing their rap routine. Special thanks to Mrs Louise Swift for her impersonation.

The staff versus student debate was again a major attraction and again the students defeated the staff. We had a controversial argument on discipline and communication presented by Mr Theo Van Eyk, with humour from Ms Liana Griggs and Mr Garry Gleeson. However, the students proved that technology has not proved to be an obstacle in the ability of people to communicate in the 21st century – not that anyone would doubt that if they spent time at Avila!

Legacy Junior Public Speaking

Four Year 8 students - Shalini Harasgama, Clarissa Frizziero, Victoria Triantis and Natasha Duspara – competed in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award Regional Final at the Box Hill RSL on July 20. The girls had to prepare a five-minute speech with a message relating to the Legacy ideals of mateship, voluntary service, self-sacrifice and care for others, and also had to deliver an impromptu speech prepared at short notice. The competition was fierce, but Shalini managed to secure a spot in the preliminary final. Well done to all four entrants!

Avila Junior Debating

In Term Two, 24 teams of year 7 and 8 students battled it out at lunchtimes in the Avila Junior Debating Competition. Early in Term Three, the finalist teams at each year level took on the debate ‘that we should envy our grandparents’ in front of the year level in Pastoral. Congratulations to all the finalists!
Term Three is always a rewarding and exciting part of the year for our English department, and it does have a definite ‘Shakespeare’ theme.

On 26 July, The Bell Shakespeare Company performed an interpretative workshop for *Macbeth* for all Year 10 students who responded with rapturous applause and many insightful questions. The performers also conducted an introductory overview of *Hamlet* and the discussion forum provided an engaging preparation for the Year 12 Literature students to prepare for the study of this examination text.

The Year 9 English classes were also delighted by a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by the Complete Works Theatre Company on August 30. The students who volunteered to perform the roles of sparring Montagues and Capulets certainly stole the early scenes of the show!

The term concluded with the promise of Spring and examination preparation for Year 12 students, whose initial practice exam was conducted with formal conditions and supervision during the parent teacher evenings. This experience was soundly reinforced by Ms Kellie Heintz, an English examination assessor and teacher of high repute, whose lecture has instilled in our students an even greater understanding and confidence for the last challenges of their Year 12.

We continue to encourage creative writing, though this year we have decided to publish a Doorways for each year 8 – 10 class as a commemorative collection of each student’s best works. These will be given to students, staff and year level coordinators at the last pastoral session next term.

Ms Mary Thornhill, Head of English

**Shakespeare takes centre stage**

Our combined KLA Art/English Day in August took our students to the Tim Burton Exhibition at ACMI and the Ian Potter permanent collection at the National Gallery of Victoria.

This important introduction to the cultural life of our city is always a delight, especially in the sketching and creativity it inspires. Students delivered a range of creative oral presentations in response to the excursion and have included some pieces of writing for their Doorways collection.

Grace Prendergast-Kruger, 8 Silver, had this to say: "The Tim Burton exhibition was really creative and imaginative. His artwork was a range of different things from short snippets of films, to sketches and writing on paper. He really expressed his identity by showing that you can create work in expressive and imaginative ways. The Ian Potter collection told a story more than just expressing creativity. *The Pioneer* is an exceptional piece. It told the story of a husband and wife settling in the bushland, and building a life for themselves. It opened our minds and hearts, making us feel as though we were there, telling the story of the painting."

Mrs Mary Thornhill, Head of English

**KLA day of cultural treasures**

As part of the Year 12 Food & Technology course this year, students were given the opportunity to experience fine dining at George Calombaris’ Restaurant – The Press Club. The aim of this experience was to expose the girls to the culinary innovations that are part of the food industry. One of the components of the Year 12 course allows the girls to design and create their own range of food products. This excursion gave students ideas and suggestions on food presentation and styling.

At The Press Club the girls were treated to a two-course luncheon consisting of a tagine style chicken and yoghurt dish served with carrot fettuccine and a mix of pistachio and almonds, and pomegranate and a swordfish and wild mushroom dish. For dessert, the amazing panna cotta with rhubarb jelly, poached pears topped with baklava crumble served in a retro jar was the talk of the town on the way home. The girls enjoyed the experience immensely and used the ideas and presentation styles as ideas to help them present their folio work.

The following is what the students had to say:

The Press Club excursion has inspired me to choose a variety of ingredients form my folio and explore new and exciting ways of presenting them. **Lauren Pecora**

The chefs certainly work outside the square, presenting food creatively and combining ingredients in an interesting manner … I loved the dessert served in the jar *(pictured at left)*. **Amanda Hickleton**

The presentation styles were something I have never seen before and very creative. The food allowed me to experience how ingredients can be incorporated in various ways … this is something I hope to achieve in my folio work. **Gia Stefadouros**

**Fine dining at The Press Club**

**Mrs Mary Thornhill, Head of English**

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Enthusiasm for Science at Avila was crystal clear during a range of interesting activities organised for National Science Week.

Biodiversity was the theme for National Science Week. In fact, the United Nations has proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity.

To mark the occasion, Avila Science staff organised a selection of activities including Labs Alive microscope activities, potting native plant seedlings, a scavenger hunt and the very successful Great Science Diorama Competition. Dioramas came in from students at every year level and presented many different habitats ranging from the polar ice to Uluru. Water featured regularly in dams, creeks, water tanks, beaches and marine habitats, while the fauna represented many different phyla. The entries were judged by student vote with the most popular diorama prize (a green ukelele!) going to Sally Redman of Year 11 for her bat cave (pictured at left).

During the week, classes also competed in a daily animal trivia quiz and viewed amazing and amusing youtube clips taken from zoos and documentaries. One amazing example showed the very diverse repertoire of the lyrebird.

It was a huge learning curve for a group of VCAL girls who had a day at the Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre (METEC) driving school to learn about defensive driving. The course highlighted some of the dangers of driving and some precautions we could make in order to avoid a collision. The driving instructors were very keen to explain the road laws and had great ideas to reinforce our understanding of them. Two of the groups took a drive to Kinglake and experienced driving safely on very windy and narrow roads. The other group stayed at the METEC centre and reinforced their basic skills and tried driving in a manual car. After the drive to Kinglake we were taught about ABS braking and had the full experience of braking at high speeds - for some, this was very exciting but others were just scared out of their minds. Overall the experience was not to be missed and we recommend it to any students looking to improve their driving skills.

On June 22, all the years 11 and 12 VCAL students visited the Melbourne Museum to see the Titanic exhibition and the IMAX documentary, Ghosts of the Abyss movie in 3D.

Ghosts of the Abyss is about the exploration of the wreck of the Titanic. The exploration started in 1999 and was lead by James Cameron who later directed the movie Titanic. The wreck is 12,400 feet below the Atlantic Ocean. In 90 years time it is believed the wreck will be gone due to bacteria and time.

The Titanic exhibition at the Melbourne Museum was full of artefacts. There was an iceberg to touch, to give some idea of the temperature of the water around the sinking of the Titanic. We had our photograph taken on a replica of the grand staircase.

The experience of the documentary and the museum was eye-opening as 1200 lives were lost in the tragic event. Since the Titanic no lives have been lost at sea due to icebergs as many safety measures were subsequently put in place for Atlantic Ocean crossings.
It was a timely visit to Canberra for a group of Year 10 and 11 students at the end of Term Two - they observed Julia Gillard during Question Time in Parliament House one day, and within 24 hours she was Australia’s first female Prime Minister.

As part of the Year 10 civics unit ‘Australians All’, students travel to the nation’s capital to explore many of its attractions. So it was that during the last week of Term Two, 16 Year 10s and two Year 11 Politics students hit the Hume Freeway.

In Canberra, the first stop was the National Capital Planning Exhibition where the history and geography of Canberra was explored. From here it was a short trip across Lake Burley-Griffin to the High Court where the workings of the highest court in the country were explained.

After lunch we went to Parliament House where we observed Question Time in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. On the floor of the House, the then Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard seemed to be in earnest discussion with many people. Little did we know that 24-hours later she was to become Australia’s first female Prime Minister.

Wednesday began with a leisurely drive by the many embassies and high commissions with their distinctive architecture. Next stop was Old Parliament House to participate in a range of activities focusing on Australia’s electoral system run by the Electoral Education Centre. After lunch it was off to the Australian Institute of Sport for a guided tour of some of the facilities.

The National Art Gallery was our first stop on Thursday. Guides discussed a number of paintings and exhibits with the group and, after a snack, we headed for the Australian War Memorial. Again students had a brief tour before being able to wander around the building and pay their respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The group boarded a flight to Melbourne and another successful venture had been completed. Hopefully the students are now a little more aware of their civic rights and responsibilities as well as some of the history that has shaped this country.

Thanks must go to Ms Clare Baker, Mrs Fiona Wright and Mr Phil Cornell for their work in putting the trip together and to the girls for their willingness to enter into the spirit of the trip so enthusiastically.

Excursions provide engaging context for Legal Studies

Life’s never boring if you’re enrolled in Legal Studies courses at Avila College.

In February, those studying Unit 1 journeyed to Castlemaine to participate in a schools program run by officers at Loddon Prison. The program focuses on decision-making and consequences and involves meeting a panel of prisoners who discuss the very serious consequences of some of their choices. In October, Unit 2 girls will visit Barwon Prison in Laverton to take part in a similar program. Students frequently describe their involvement in these excursions as highlights of their time at Avila.

In July, the Year 12 students visited the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court. They were welcomed and addressed by a magistrate who talked about the operation of the court and some of the difficulties they faced in dispensing justice.

The girls then had the opportunity to visit various courts and observe proceedings. As part of their Unit 4 studies, the girls cover the jurisdictions of a range of state and federal courts.

In August, the Unit 2 students visited the County and Supreme Courts. They were addressed by court officials and then had the opportunity to observe proceedings involving serious criminal offences. Those who attended the County Court viewed a culpable driving trial.

Mr Phil Cornell, Legal Studies teacher

Year 12 students Samantha Footman, Rebecca Cincotta, Isabella Mazzeo and Adriana Neville ‘share the bench’ with Magistrate Simon Garnett.
Undertaking French can be creative with a humanitarian twist, as well having a more studious academic side, as the Year 12 French class can attest.

To mark Bastille Day on July 14, the class treated staff to a sumptuous morning tea with a very distinct French flavour. In return, staff each made a small donation totalling $120 which was donated to Médecins Sans Frontières.

On a more studious note, Year 11 and 12 students continue to appreciate their regular sessions with Mrs Nicole North-Coombes who takes them for French conversation and vocabulary expansion.

Mrs North-Coombes, a native French speaker born in Mauritius, described French as a beautiful and melodious language that can be used widely.

Mrs North-Coombes has been assisting at Avila for 23 years, in fact she completed her VCE at Avila as an adult student in 1975 and her two daughters, Claudine and Veronic, are past students.

Two Avila families who each hosted an Indonesian student recently have found the six-week experience to be extremely enriching.

The Smith family - Lillian, Year 11, Ruth, Year 9, and Isobel, Year 7 - hosted Nadhira Ivardhani while Erin Smart, Year 10, welcomed Marinda Primadini Kusuma to their family.

Nadhira and Marinda were greatly impressed by the warmth and inclusiveness of the Avila community as well as having the chance to improve their English and experience another culture. The host families also thoroughly enjoyed the chance to learn more about another culture and at the same time appreciate more about their own country while playing tour guides.

The following comments help capture the value of such an experience:

As an exchange student I was able to proudly present my country to Australia and to also learn more about Australia. It can be quite challenging as an exchange student and I have become more mature and independent. Australia is a big country whose people are nice and kind. Ruth is amazing and we have become sisters in this short time. **Nadhira Ivardhani**

Apart from being able to have conversations at school in a language that most people don’t understand, the best thing about hosting an exchange student was being able to show off what our country has to offer. Everyday things we see and take for granted amazed our Indonesian visitor. Nadhira has been a joy to have around... **Ruth Smith, 9 Blue**

At Avila College, I discovered many differences between schooling in Australia and Indonesia. I love the way students at Avila interact in class, they put their hands up and ask something when they don’t understand. In Indonesia we just listen to whatever the teacher has to say because we are very shy to ask questions. I love the students at Avila, they are so friendly and were always happy to help me with my English. I loved staying with Erin and her family. I now have to study hard to get a good marks in the national exam next year. And then I may have an opportunity to come and continue my studies in Australia. **Marinda Primadini Kusuma**

Hosting an exchange student really helped open up my eyes to another culture and practice my Indonesian and also do many things I would not otherwise do. ... We took Rinda to the snow because she had never seen snow before, we went fishing and we caught lots of fish. We visited Healesville Sanctuary and also went to see the Australian ballet. Rinda came with many gifts that she was constantly giving out to my family and friends. She also cooked for us some traditional dishes. **Erin Smart, 10 Silver**

(For the non-Indonesian speakers, **Pertukaran Budaya yang Berharga** means an enriching cultural exchange)
Six or so months on, stressed Year 12s have been replaced by upcoming fashion designers, accountants and lawyers, full-time workers, travellers and apprentices!

The Class of 2009 Reunion on August 24 saw a room buzzing full of friends eager to catch-up, as well as teachers wanting to know just where their beloved students are now.

As we have all settled into 'lives away from Avila', it was lovely to return to see familiar faces in a place we called home for many years. The appetisers provided by Food Tech students were a wonderful contribution to the relaxed celebration.

It was not only a time for students to reminisce and catch-up, but to celebrate the wonderful leadership of Principal Ms Liz Gleeson, particularly in light of news that she will be moving onto different work next year. Ms Gleeson has been in a principal position (whether deputy, acting or as actual principal) for the entirety of our time at Avila, and so the Class of 2009 especially thanks her for the wonderful way she engaged with, inspired and supported us. She was a constant model for us as students and as young women. We wish her all the best for the future.

A huge thank-you to Mrs Louise Swift, our much loved Year 12 Co-ordinator and to the other staff for organising an opportunity to come together as Avila girls once more.

We look forward to keeping in contact as we pursue our chosen paths, always remembering the community that gave us so much support at such an important time in our lives.

Caitlyn Petrie
2009 College Captain
Love of learning drives scientist

Never turn down the opportunity to learn a new skill are the wise words of past student and scientist Alison Neil (nee Evans) who, since graduating from Avila in 2003, has strived to fulfill her teenage ambition to pursue a career in science.

Alison was interested in a career in science because she believed it would offer an intellectual challenge. She chose to pursue physiology as a major and completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at Melbourne University. Alison thrived on the vast range of options within the course. She also enjoyed university life but warned that it was a place where students must learn to be very self disciplined.

Since graduating from university in 2007, Alison has been working at the Bionic Ear Institute at St. Vincent’s Hospital where she is a research assistant involved in both laboratory and administrative work. The laboratory work includes performing experimental surgeries on animals, electrophysiological recording and tissue cultures. The administrative work involves designing experiments and organising suitable personnel, writing grant submissions and animal ethics applications and contributing to scientific papers.

Alison finds joy in her job: ‘One of the most rewarding aspects is when you see evidence of something nobody knows yet, even if it has been suspected’. One of her future goals is to advance her career to research management or laboratory management.

Recalling her secondary school days, Alison said one of the greatest strengths of Avila is that students are encouraged to be independent thinkers.

She considered the highlights of her time at Avila to be the friendships she developed and also the fact that a work experience opportunity in Year 10 at the CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies in Parkville helped her choose her career path.

In the classroom, Alison’s favourite subjects were chemistry, biology and health and human development and she noted that Mrs Anna Marvelli and Mrs Angela Gaymer were inspiring teachers. Beyond the classroom Alison played flute in the orchestra and was also involved with the Red Cross Doorknock and Meals on Wheels.

Alison said it was important for students to not be too specific when considering tertiary courses so they can keep their options open. It was preferable to start specialising more in second and third year so students can achieve their best.

She recommended a career in science for those interested because it offers the opportunity to travel and be at the forefront of cutting edge research.

Interview conducted by Year 11 Business Management students Shanelle Albanese and Audrey Cavalera as part of their unit on Public Relations and Marketing.
A predominantly Avila group of Year 11 students and their partners enjoyed a night of magic at their debutante ball on Friday, July 9 and at the same time raised $3,900 for the Make A Wish Foundation.

The 24 beautiful Year 11 debutantes and their partners were presented to Lawrie Leeman, President of the Make a Foundation and his partner Robyn at The Grand in Wantirna. Youth Ambassador for Make a Wish Australia, Ms Tegan Dunmall, was guest speaker for the evening. She touched many hearts as she described her childhood which, due to her illness, was spent mostly indoors. Tegan recalled with gratitude the difference that the gift of a computer, donated by Make A Wish, made to the quality of her life.

Congratulations to all the girls who have helped to change the lives and made wishes come true for some families that you may never meet but who will be forever grateful.

The debutante ball was organised by Avila parents, Maria Frizziero and Pam Hunter who are currently busy with preparations for a second ball in October. It is the fifth year the debutante balls have been run. Students interested in the 2011 ball should contact Mrs Frizziero at maria@frizziero.com or visit the website www.sapphireevents.com.au.

‘Chill Out’ Music Festival was hot

Brrrrr, it’s cold in here, there must be some MUSOS in the atmosphere ...

It was Thursday, August 26 when the temperature dropped to below zero degrees celsius, but the musos of Avila were on fire! With a range of works varying from hardcore rock, to relaxed classical, the girl of the music school wowed a packed Bunjil Centre with its skills and talents. Solos, ensembles, orchestras, duets, different instruments and voices all showing off what they had to offer, keeping with the cool, calm theme of Chill Out. With appearances from snowmen, ice-creams, polar bears and fridges to keep the evening extra chilly, the night was truly one of the best music festivals ever.

Meera Fernandes, Year 11 Music Captain
Avila’s Year 7s ensured that the Phillip Island Adventure Resort lived up to its name when they converged upon the complex for their 2010 camp early on August 2 - 4.

The camp was an amazing opportunity to make new friends, enjoy new experiences, discover hidden talents and overcome fears. Most of us came away with no regrets, many new friends and fond memories.

The activities were absolutely exhilarating! Most students would agree that letting go of the bar on the drop slide was the scariest thing on camp. It was almost the opposite of most activities, we had no harness and we had to look down! Hanging there, peering below, hands gripping the bar, and hearing the lady say, '1, 2, 3. Let go!' was terrifying but it was the best feeling when you knew you had done it and faced your fear.

Another highlight was the giant swing! Before we could even think we were getting pulled up to the top by the other members of our activity group. With one tug of the rope our stomachs dropped and we couldn’t even find the breath to scream. It felt like we were flying! It gave us a huge adrenaline rush that lasted for hours afterwards!

Other activities like the high ropes and flying fox conquered our fear of heights and had us screaming with excitement. Climbing across wires, connected to a harness, six metres above the ground yelling 'CLIP, LOCK, SQUEEZE!' Each time we clipped our harness to a new challenging part of the high ropes course, made us shake with nerves! Gliding along at a high speed high above the ground felt like we were FREE!

According to Jaimee Hall and Simone Louey the main highlights included the drop slide at A Maze ‘N’ Things - which was a terrifying and exhilarating experience providing many with the opportunity to face their fears; the giant swing – which was a big boundary pusher and a chance for some of us to exercise our vocal cords; the high ropes course – a physically challenging experience for some, but for others a chance to bring out and challenge their inner monkey; the flying fox – the experience of freedom and flight in a way most of us had never experienced before.

'The best night on camp was the "Glitz & Glam" trivia night, hosted by some of our wonderful teachers Mrs Jackie Benton, Miss Amanda Flynn and Ms Marina Kelly,' said Simone and Jaimee.

'Mad costumes, crazy trivia, and lots of prizes put the cherry on top of the cake for an all-round awesome camp!'

Sophia Elliott and Emily Wright, 7 Gold
It was a weekend of thrills and spills and a whole lot of fun for 41 Year 10 students and five teachers who converged on Mount Hotham on August 21 and 22.

After an early wake up on Saturday morning we split into groups for ski lessons where we learned to slow down, turn and stop. The lessons were followed by a whole day of skiing The Summit and Big D. Many of us were first-time skiers, but after countless stacks and laughs everyone finally got the hang of it. After an eventful but exhausting day of skiing, we went on a night walk through the village - the highlight was a massive snow ball fight.

On Sunday we chose between skiing the Big D or The Summit and, although everyone was in a lot of pain, we all made the most of our last day at the snow. It was a terrific weekend - I tried things I never thought I would, I learned many new skills, formed new friendships and had an unforgettable weekend.

Phoebe Cowling. 10 Pink

One of the highlights of the Year 11 curriculum is the core Physical Education program which introduces students to a whole new world of exciting recreational pursuits.

Not only does the program enable students to experience an activity they may never have otherwise been aware of or had an opportunity to try, but it pushes them out of their comfort zone both physically and mentally and allows them to ‘have a go’.

This year’s program was particularly creative with activities ranging from fencing and Bollywood dancing to aikido and tai Chi to massage, to rock climbing, body pump and spin classes. Some students were also introduced to parkour, the physical discipline of French origin in which participants run along a route, attempting to negotiate physical obstacles in the most efficient way possible.

The following student comments sum up the benefits of the program:

The program was a fantastic way to get all the students out and active, plus it was a lot of fun. Olivia Dwyer, 11 Purple
It was really great to be able to try out so many different new sports. Onella Gurusinha, 11 Silver
It was exciting to come to class to see what activity we were going to be doing. Hashanthie Jayaratna, 11 Pink
Recreation is a rewarding program to keep students aware of their health and fitness. The variety of activities is a great way to keep students interested. Dina Khoweiss, 11 Purple
Avila Matters Term 3, 2010 - 25

Avila's talented sportswomen are making names for themselves across a broad range of codes and interests.

Avila is dominating the Victorian Catholic Schools Netball with two of our girls in the 15 years-and-under team who will compete in the National Championships in Queensland in the coming holidays. Year 9s, Ruth Smith and Evelyn Andrews are goal/wing attack and goal shooter/goal attack respectively in the 12-member team who will be playing two one-hour games in the championships.

Meanwhile Ruth’s older sister Lillian is an emergency in the Open Team. Lillian, Year 11, is also going from strength to strength as a netball umpire. She has been ‘talent identified’ to be groomed as a league-level umpire.

Melbourne Tigers
Basketballer Ilena Gentile has this year made her debut with the Melbourne Tigers.

The 16-year-old Year 10 student has been playing with the Tigers’ Under 18 side which has enjoyed a successful season and recently played in finals. Ilena, who plays point guard, is thriving on the challenge and hopes to progress to the Youth League and one day play for Australia.

Ilena’s commitment with Tigers involves training sessions three times a week plus traveling as far as Geelong, Ballarat and the Latrobe Valley to play.

Trans national, national and state successes
Three students have secured some impressive titles in Term Three:

Brittany Davison, Year 7, won two firsts and two fourths at the Tans-national Gymnastics Competition (Victoria and Tasmania) in individuals and her team won the competition overall, making Brittany a trans-national champion.

Natalie Passarelli, Year 10, has been selected in the U17 Victorian Softball Team for the second year running. The National Softball Tournament will be played in Brisbane in January 2011.

Samantha Benn, Year 8, was a member of the successful Victorian Calisthenics team which won the national title in the intermediates division in Canberra in July. The 24 girls in the team, aged between 13 and 16, were drawn from all parts of Victoria.

State-level finish for aerobics
Congratulations to Avila’s aerobics teams who competed at the State championships at Moorabbin on June 20.

Teams competed in the championship round in the morning to try and secure a wildcard for the premiership state finals held in the afternoon. First placed teams receive a wild card to compete in the afternoon. Two Avila teams were in the championship round competing for the wildcard and two had already qualified for the premiership round in May when they competed in Geelong.

Our senior Open B team ‘Poison Ivy’ had a score of 76.90 and came second in the championship final, missing out by one spot to get a wild card into the premiership state final.

Senior Stage 2 team ‘Static Illusion’ had a score of 64.70 and finished fifth in the Championship round.

Junior Stage 2 team competed in the premiership round (held in the afternoon) and had a score of 68, coming ninth.

Secondary Aerobics Team ‘Silver Slash’ who also made the premiership round had a score of 73.90. They also finished ninth.
Avila Matters Term 3, 2010

Sports news

Avila’s sports teams have put in strong performances against old-time rivals in the SCSA and other competitions.

Soccer

Avila proved it is a force to be reckoned with in Soccer by taking out the junior and senior titles at the SCSA meet on August 20 and also ‘women of the match’ in both the grand finals.

After challenging games in cold and windy conditions the juniors and seniors eventually progressed to the grand finals. The juniors won their final 2-1 whereas the seniors ended up in penalties. Saving three penalties and scoring the last penalty for Avila, the seniors won.

To celebrate their victory, the Avila contingent gave a proud rendition of the College hymn. Adding to the excitement of the day was the naming of Jacinta and Alana Spizzirri as women of their respective finals. Congratulations to all teams and good luck to the juniors for the State competition.

Stephanie Pejic, Soccer Captain.

Hockey

In SCSA hockey, the seniors finished second with the juniors coming third. Thanks to Jenny Brown and Sarah Macdonald for their training and coaching.

Volleyball

With an overwhelming turnout at trials, our three teams were finally picked and on their way to Keysborough for the annual volleyball meet. The senior team, with coach Mr Allan Kennedy out injured, was led by the fearless Mrs Kerrie Macheda and remained undefeated all day ... that was until the grand final in which Avila suffered its only loss to come runners-up. Spectacular dives from Brittany Richards and impressive serving from Alice Crellin left the stadium awestruck.

The inters, coached by Miss Sarah Tutchener, were equally impressive with amazing saves from Mikaela Welti and top notch serving from Ilena Gentile to finish fourth overall.

Under the instruction of coach extraordinaire, Miss Mel Bower, the juniors secured a well-deserved second place in the competition and showed much promising talent with the likes of Natalie Strudwick and Machel Tamani.

Nicole Paulding, Volleyball Captain

SCSA Cross Country

SCSA Cross Country at Albert Park on June 17 exuded all that you would expect from a typical winter cross-terrain sport.

Despite the ominous clouds, the juniors bravely set off. Alas, the skies opened up and our juniors endured driving rain to finish well-placed in the field of more than 100 runners.

Continued next page...
The weather continued to deteriorate, with heavy rains and gale-force winds that saw Star of the Sea’s marquee wrapping around a tree. It was at this point that the day was cancelled.

Thankyou to Ms Lisa Manning-Cox and Mrs Cathy Bolduan for their support and to the runners who were willing to compete on the day.

Alex Bell Cross Country Captain

Football

Avila might be a contender for a new AFL team if the 2010 season is any indication - two of our three teams came home with flags.

The seniors secured a nail-biting one point victory after an epic battle against Siena. Naomi Linossier saved the day by kicking a goal in the last minute to secure a win. The game featured some great marks and hard tackles from both teams, but none as infamous as Britt Richard’s ‘buddy’ goal from the boundary.

The intermediates played a tough game in very slippery conditions on July 15. Finishing second, the team displayed fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm. Well done to the backline which was under the pump for most of the game.

Last but certainly not least, the juniors played on July 26. It was a well fought match with Avila winning the game by nine points.

A special mention to our awesome coaches, Miss Karis Dalton, Mrs Anna Cornell and Mr Steven Francis for giving up their time and also to those who umpired including Nick Cornell. Thank you to the parents, family members and friends who came along to cheer on the girls and, as usual, apologies to whoever had to scrub and soak the mud out of our clothing.

Michelle Esmore, Football Captain
Despite being key players down due to illness and injury for the state finals in the All Schools’ Netball competition on September 8, Avila put in a tough fight to finish a commendable fifth.

The senior Australasian netball team won a berth in the elite competition after finishing in top spot at the All Schools’ Championships on August 2.

The hotly contested Australasian Netball Championships at the Jells Park Netball Centre in the July school holidays was another major highlight on the Term Three netball calendar. Well done to our seniors who finished fifth out of 31 teams competing from as far afield as Sri Lanka, Singapore and New Zealand, and to our juniors who came third out of 20 teams.

The Australasian teams, together with other teams from Avila, continued to put in strong performances at the All Schools’ Championships. In the Juniors, the ‘A’ team was third, the B team eighth and the ‘C’ team seventh. In the Intermediates, the Junior Australasian team was equal second while the Intermediate B team was sixth. In the Senior division, the Senior Australasian team was first followed by the the Senior B team in eighth place. Congratulations to all the girls who competed. A huge thank you to all the teachers and coaches Lacey Oakley and Rebecca Daniher.

All Schools Intermediate B from back L-R, Teaghan Sutherland, Melissa Osborn, Kristen Poulton, Maddison Richards, and Siobhan King. Front L-R, Britanny Rowden, Victoria Caruso-Lecchiuto, Bianca Malietzis, Georgia Cormick, and Rose Kealey.

Junior B from L-R Clare Kolden, Chloe Ruff, Victoria Jeffery, Sarah Clarke, Georgia Muling, Amy Gleeson, Demi Tsoumanis, Yasmin Gomez, and Abby Moore.


Junior A from back L-R Gabrielle Nihill, Grace Prendergast-Kruger, Abigail Weston, Catherine Smith, Madeline Bregazzi, Lucy Keys. Front L-R, Sarah Calaneri, Mary-Clare Conheady-Barker.


Australasian Seniors from back L-R, Coach Lacey Oakley, Georgia Le Maitre, Elena Healey, Meg Withers, Lillian Smith and Ruth Smith. Seated L-R, Alana Aiello, Caitlin Le Maitre, Rachelle Cahill, Emily Rebbechi and Nicole Paulding.

Netball stars

Caitlin Le Maitre and Lillian Smith, Netball captains