Avila College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.

Villers Bretonneux in France, Anzac Day 2011: The Avila group visiting France joins forces with Foreign Affairs Minister and former Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd.
Message from the Principal

**Much achieved in busy semester**

When even students say that the year is flying by, you know that this is not just a passing comment made by those of us who are asking where the year has gone. A common phrase I have heard recently is – ‘where has the year gone?’ As you will see throughout the pages in this Term Two edition of *Avila Matters*, much indeed has been going on at and beyond Avila College as Semester One draws to a close.

Some of the highlights of the semester, both behind-the-scenes in terms of leadership and future planning, and those that are more evident, include:

- **‘Big picture’ planning**
  At the beginning of June, we, as a leadership team, spent half a day engaged in ‘big picture’ planning, taking time to review aspects of our school that we need to consider over the next 18 months and beyond.

- **Assessments**
  A significant focus of this term has been the many formal assessments completed by all year levels including NAPLAN for years 7 and 9 and mid year exams for students in years 9 to 12. Much work is done by the teaching staff in assessing students, providing feedback via the oral report nights, and writing formal reports towards the end of this semester.

- **2011 Creative Arts Festival**
  A highlight of Term Two was the wonderful 2011 Creative Arts Festival held at the Robert Blackwood Hall on Thursday May 19. With a theme of ‘Time Travel’, more than 400 students were involved and the high quality of their performances across all the Arts disciplines – music, drama, art and dance - was indeed a pleasure to witness. Gauging by audience responses – a most entertaining evening was enjoyed by all. Such a showcase of talent takes numerous hours of preparation and rehearsals and our thanks are extended to Acting Director of Music, Mrs Clarissa Seamer, who was the overall director, and the 2011 Creative Arts team.

- **Cross gifted to school by Indigenous leader**
  A significant event during Reconciliation Week was the installation of a new cross donated by Vicky Clark from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. The hand-painted cross, together with a ‘Wall of Fame’ display of profiles of many significant Aboriginal Australians, have become a poignant focal point in the Year 12 corridor. Student class captains from years 7 to 12 attended the installation of the cross ceremony and will encourage members of their home rooms to visit the area. Thank you to Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator, Mrs Christine Valladares who was instrumental in the cross being donated and who, with the help of student members of the Reconciliation Group, organised the installation ceremony.

- **Flexible learning spaces**
  As we eagerly watch the construction of our new junior school building, much discussion, review and planning has recently taken place about the best use of future learning spaces. While we carefully consider planning options for our classrooms we aim to create flexible learning spaces that can be vibrant spaces for Avila’s future learners and teachers.

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**Avila Matters cover**

- Avila in France -

  Whilst visiting Villers Bretonneux in France on Anzac Day, the Avila group met Foreign Affairs Minister and former Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd. The group is pictured with Mr Rudd at the entrance to the Australian Cemetery and War Memorial after attending the Dawn Service. See page 17 for a full report of the trip.

  Photograph: Mrs Christine Valladares

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**Avila Matters**

Editor: Sandra Bucovaz
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students and staff.
Avila English and Religious Education teacher, Margaret Kelleher, has successfully completed her thesis for her Doctor of Philosophy, driven by her interest in engaging students in more meaningful interpretation of scripture.

Her research addresses the teaching of scripture, the Bible. It highlights that, as students progress through school, the teaching method should engage their growing capacity for critical thinking in their interpretation and understanding of the biblical text. Literalist interpretations should be challenged.

Dr Kelleher argues that critical interpretation of scripture is important because it is ‘an essential foundation for a critically conscious and committed adult faith and Christian praxis’.

‘The subject enables students to develop their ideas and enrich their understanding about Catholicism and the ways in which it interacts with society, both historically and at present,’ said Margaret who hopes to pursue a career in the field of biomedicine.

‘As a coptic Orthodox Christian, this unit gave me a greater insight into Roman Catholicism and offered different perspectives of some of the mutual beliefs held by all Christians.’

Margaret added that it was extremely worthwhile undertaking a VCE subject in Year 11 because of the insights she gained into what is required. Also, her result has provided her with a great start to VCE in 2011.

Avila English and Religious Education teacher, Margaret Kelleher, has successfully completed her thesis for her Doctor of Philosophy, driven by her interest in engaging students in more meaningful interpretation of scripture.

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‘It was clear that students had difficulty reconciling their reading and understanding of the biblical text with their growing capacity for critical thinking and their learning in other areas,’ said Dr Kelleher who has taught in numerous schools during her teaching career. ‘In Science, for example, the theories of evolution and the Big Bang can be hard to reconcile with a literalist interpretation of Genesis and the world being created in six days.’

Dr Kelleher has spent several years completing the doctorate, juggling it with full-time and then part-time teaching. She took extended leave last year to write the 462-page/103,802-word thesis.

The subject matter for the doctorate highlights Dr Kelleher’s passion as an educator and her interests in cognitive development, theology and religious education. In a Masters of Education at the University of Melbourne, Dr Kelleher explored cognitive development and its application to the teaching of History. She subsequently completed a Bachelor of Theology degree at the Melbourne College of Divinity.

What next? Dr Kelleher would love to be involved in empirical research which explores students’ understanding of the Bible and how their interpretation of the text influences their attitudes towards religion and religious belief.
Des dieux et des hommes (Of gods and men), a film recently released, is a truly beautiful, challenging and poignant film about how we live life and for what purpose. Fundamentally, the film tells the story of a group of Trappist monks who live in an impoverished Algerian village. They share the celebrations of the predominantly Muslim community and dispense medical care, advice and pastoral care to the villagers as they follow the rhythm of monastic life. For a variety of reasons the monks are under threat by fundamentalist terrorists. The film explores the idea of life: its value, its purpose and its meaning. Throughout, the monks pray about and discuss whether they want to stay in the monastery or leave it for a safer place. By the end, they all agree to stay in the little village and embrace whatever fate is presented to them. Each, in his own way, comes to the realisation that there is no meaning in life if we flee; there is no meaning to life if we only consider the self and not others. The monks choose to live fully and to remain true to their call to be Christ for others in the world.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples that he came into this world so that they may understand what living life to the fullest truly means. The throw away line, ‘I’m here for a good time, not a long time’, flies in the face of what Jesus was telling his disciples and, through them, us today. While we pine for joy and peace in our lives (and in our world), the human condition simply doesn’t always allow it. With life comes love, joy, hope and peace – all that we yearn for. Additionally, life throws at us sorrow, death and, at times, hopelessness. This is the reality of living a full life: embracing that which is difficult and still being able to find the good in it; still being able to learn and grow from it.

This term we remembered Mrs Rita Samson, perhaps one who has captured the meaning of what Jesus was on about. Like the monks in Algeria, like Jesus and like so many of our students, Mrs Samson spent herself for others. In her work at Avila she was forever putting the ‘other’ first and she did so in fidelity to the gospel values we cherish here at Avila. Mrs Samson was able to demonstrate to her students and colleagues that, in living a Christ-like life, we, and she, were living life to the fullest; in abundance. Twelve months after her death, we are still learning lessons from her.

It is with great energy that the young women of Avila College seek out the ‘other’ and give life in all its fullness to him or her in the simple ordinariness of their day-to-day contact. More specifically, the Avila calendar finds space to ensure opportunities are sought and met to give expression to the call of Jesus to live life fully for the benefit of the ‘other.’

Throughout the term the years 9 and 11 students have participated in Christian Living Days. For the Year 9 students it was a chance to reflect upon the importance of family and family relationships. The Year 9s, through sharing, discussion and prayer, came to the realisation (once again) that family is key to their growth and development as good and virtuous citizens. In a similar fashion, the Year 11s developed further the idea of healthy relationships with others and their God through the facilitation of the Youth Mission Team. The Year 11s were afforded the opportunity to be still for a while and consider what is a life-giving relationship and what isn’t.

Our Year 10 students have been immersed in living out the gospel through the Community Service Program at the end of Term Two. Infants, the elderly, school children, the homeless, the sick and handicapped were just some of the people our Year 10 girls were able to shed abundant life and light upon during this time. Community Service is more that just good works. It is deeply rooted in the Gospel message that, to be a follower of Christ, we must be Christ-like. While I was not there, I’m certain that in many instances our students were able to provide, even for a short while, the abundance of life that Jesus asks of us.

As I reflect on Term Two, I’m impressed with all that our community has achieved and all that it has participated in to ensure that our key tenet for existence: ‘I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance’ is ever-present in our thinking and our acting.

Mr John Rhynchart
Faith Development Co-ordinator

Faith Development

Living life fully for the benefit of others

I have come that you may have life and have it in abundance...

John 10:10

Year 9 Christian Living Day

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Mr John Rhynchart
Faith Development Co-ordinator
Avila model in Restorative resource

Avila College is being featured as an example of the successful implementation of restorative practices (RP) in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

An article about Avila’s journey in adopting RP has been included in a major resource for other Catholic schools implementing the restorative approach. The publication, produced by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, was officially launched at the Veneto Club on June 3.

RP allows both staff and students to engage in dialogue that respectfully challenges students to reflect upon their behaviour and its effect on others. It offers staff a range of strategies that support the thinking of students as they work together to resolve conflict or address poor behaviour. A restorative approach engages in shared dialogue, problem-solving, and ownership of the solution.

The Avila article was originally prepared by deputy principals Mrs Christine Kralj (Wellbeing) and Ms Rebecca Cetrola (Administration), who was Year 10 Co-ordinator at the time, for the CEOM publication, learning matters.

Mrs Kralj, who is responsible for student and staff wellbeing at Avila, said RP had had a positive impact on behaviour management at the College.

‘We are delighted that our journey in adopting RP can help guide others,’ Mrs Kralj said.

Not only was Avila featured as a successful RP school at the June 3 launch, but our talented string ensemble impressed the gathering by playing background music for the evening.

Vale Mr Terry Ingram

A member of the extended Avila family, Mr Terry Ingram passed away on June 6 after many years of ill health.

Mr Ingram’s daughters, Joanne and Bernadette are past Avila students and Mr Ingram and his wife Barbara’s association with the College continued after the girls finished school.

Mr Ingram was a wonderful stalwart of the Avila Community, volunteering in the tuckshop and helping to organise the fetes that used to be a part of College life in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Long after his daughters had left the College, Mr Ingram continued at the tuckshop. He was the tuckshop’s most reliable helper, always willing to fill in if someone couldn’t make it. His wife, Barbara, still makes the Yo Yo biscuits which have been the favourite of thousands of students over the years.

The Avila community extends its deepest sympathy to Barbara, Joanne (Class of 1987), and Bernadette (Class of 1997), and their families.
Mother’s Day

Adapted from Mother’s Breakfast Prayer written by Rosanna Chor for the 2011 Mother’s Day breakfast for Year 12s and their mothers and other significant women in their lives.

You held me in your gentle arms;
Protected me from earthly harms.
You watched me thrive to who I am
And guided me with gentle hands.

You’ve cared for me for eighteen years
Fed me, clothed me and dried my tears.
You’ve loved me wholly all these years
Despite my flaws or childish fears.

You were my shelter when I felt stress;
With soothing words and love’s caress
You treated me with such great worth
Through troubling times and times of mirth

How blessed I feel; you’re such a pleasure
You are my world and worldly treasure
And watched me grow with such delight

I am most thankful for all these things
You’ve taught me love; my heart just sings
You are my mother, my role model and friend
And with this poem my love I send.

Staff baby boom at Avila

There has been a bit of a baby boom at Avila with four teachers and a past member of staff welcoming the safe arrivals of beautiful new additions to their families.

The Avila new arrivals list:

- Mrs Rola Talj, husband Camil and son Samir, 8 years, welcomed James, born on April 17.
- Ms Roxane Lascaris and husband Scott Gelven welcomed Gabriel Theo on May 2. Gabriel is baby brother to Jacob, 9, Abigail, 8, and Elias, 4.
- Mrs Kerrie Macheda, husband Anthony, and son Lucas welcomed Ella Jade on May 10.
- Mrs Bridie Macdonald, husband Andrew, and son Lachlan welcomed Annabelle Mollie on May 22.

In one of those quirky coincidences, Mrs Macheda and Mrs Macdonald were exactly 12 days apart for the births of their two-year-old sons and also 12 days apart for the births of their daughters.

Mrs Macheda and Mrs Macdonald with their daughters Ella and Annabelle during a visit to Avila.

Ms Lascaris and the growing Gelven gang.
Japanese student Shiho Sato, 16, has returned home after a 12-month Rotary exchange to Australia. Shiho recounts her experience in the following interview with classmate, Sonya Rose Meyer.

Where are you from in Japan and was your family affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami earlier this year? I am from Mie Prefecture in the middle of Japan, south west of Tokyo. What has happened in Japan is very sad yet it has been wonderful how the Avila community has helped make origami cranes, a symbol of hope in Japan. Fortunately, my family was not affected.

Why did you choose to come to Australia? I came to Australia as Rotary Exchange student. I wanted to improve my English and I am also interested in the culture and food, scenery and people of other countries.

What did you enjoy most about being in Australia? I loved everything! I especially loved going to school. I LOVED the food. I enjoyed spending time with my host family, everyone has been so friendly. I went to the football (Go Cats!); and rode a bicycle from Melbourne to Adelaide with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program (pictured at left). I visited many interesting places including Sydney, Canberra, Uluru, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs, and Coober Pedy. It was amazing to see so many different places. Australia is such a big country!

What are some of the main differences between school in Japan and Australia? Everything! In Japan the choice of subjects is very limited. Schools are very strict in Japan, we are not allowed to talk in class at all. The relationship between the teachers and students was so friendly at Avila.

What do you plan to do when you finish school, and how will your experience in Australia help you? I would like to be a flight attendant, which makes my time in Australia improving my English even more important. Is there anything else you would like to add? I’m going to miss everyone so much. Thank you to everyone who has helped me on this trip, I will never forget you. This year was the best year of my life and I hope to come back to Australia and visit Avila again.
More than 70 visitors from parishes and schools from around Victoria, as well as special guests from as far afield as Sydney, gathered at Avila on Sunday April 2 to celebrate their successes, share their difficulties as custodians of the Message Stick, and look at the use of Aboriginal symbolism in Catholic communities.

The focus for the day was ‘Symbols and Liturgy’ and how the use of Aboriginal symbols enriches the liturgy, linking the Gospel message to this land - Australia. It was an enriching experience as well as a wonderful opportunity for the Avila Reconciliation Group to meet and talk with other like-minded people from throughout Victoria.

Special guests included keynote speaker Graeme Mundine executive officer of the Aboriginal Ministry for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney; Father Tony Kevin, the chaplain for Melbourne’s Aboriginal Catholics; Ms Vicki Clark from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry; Bishop Hilton Deakin; Melissa Brickell from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Council; Sister Helen-Mary fcj, and co-chairs for Catholics for Australian Reconciliation, Charles Balnaves, who was MC for the day, and Sherry Balcome.

The message stick movement was inspired by Pope John Paul II when he instructed the Church to ‘joyfully’ receive the contribution that Aboriginal peoples have made in order ‘to be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be’. As custodians of a message stick, we are aware that ‘a message stick is a means of communication in Aboriginal culture’. The message was inscribed on the stick and “passed on” so that everyone could receive the same message. The message that accompanies the message sticks in Catholic communities, is one of “love, hope, forgiveness and peace” (Aunty Betty Pike). The message stick accompanies the Gospel as a symbol and a reminder that the message of love, hope, forgiveness and peace in the Gospel needs to be handed on.

Keynote speaker, Graeme Mundine, discussed the symbols that we can use in Australia to express God. He emphasised the ‘importance of land’ to Aboriginal culture and how significant our Australian land and nature are in order to experience God, pointing out an obvious example, Uluru. Graeme explained that the message stick has lots of symbols from Aboriginal areas around Australia that we can identify. He called for us to stand together in solidarity as Catholics, and use symbols from Aboriginal culture when we gather as Church. He invited parishes to use local Indigenous cultural symbols during Mass, suggested the beautiful Coolaman could be used during Advent and Christmas celebrations. Graeme spoke of the significance of Aboriginal beliefs about how land is so central to Aboriginal peoples and how land was created, and the link with the passage of Genesis in the bible. He posed a question to us all asking, ‘How does God speak to us in Australia today?’ After much discussion we agreed that symbols can help make our ceremonies and rituals more inclusive and inviting to Aboriginal peoples. Our land is a sign of God.

Other highlights of the day included:
- We were blessed to pray with Sister Helen-Mary fcj and the elders who led the Aboriginal rosary. The rosary beads, beautifully crafted from gumnuts by Aboriginal people, represented the land in parts of Australia from which they came. It was suggested that these rosary beads could be used in parishes during the month of Mary in May. It was inspiring to have another model of prayer.
- Melissa Brickell brought her beautiful artwork of the Luminous Mysteries to life by explaining her use of symbols.
- In his address, Father Tony Kevin emphasised: ‘Words aren’t as important as symbols and actions’ and encouraged us to show respect, warmth, recognition and inclusiveness to all Australians in our parishes, in particular our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, by the way we gather as Church using symbols that reflect Aboriginal culture.
- ‘World Cafe’ style workshops, facilitated by Vicki Clark, where we discussed how we can make a change in our daily lives.

The day provided an invaluable opportunity to share time and ideas with like-minded people; a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture; and renewed hope for the future.

Mrs Jackie Benton, teacher and member of the Avila Reconciliation Group
‘R’ is for Recognition

RECOGNITION was the theme for Reconciliation Week 2011, and a poignant one for the Avila Reconciliation Group.

The Avila Reconciliation Group knows that there is an abundance of community recognition for non-Indigenous people, but very little positive recognition of the Aboriginal community – and yet, there are so many wonderful Aboriginal stories of lives of bravery, resilience and talent to be told. It was decided that the main activity for the week would be the creation of a ‘Wall of Fame’ of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The girls spent lunchtimes producing some beautiful posters to acknowledge some of the many contributions.

This display is in the Senior Corridor where a newly instaled cross painted by Vicki Clark (Mutthi Mutthi) is displayed. The cross had been given to the community in Term One to acknowledge Avila’s support of Catholics for Australian Reconciliation. It was officially instaled on June 2 by Principal Ms Louise Gunther and Year 11 Reconciliation Captain Alysha Rose’ Meyer. Class captains attended the ceremony, led by Faith Development Co-ordinator Mr John Rhynehart, and it is hoped they will lead by example to help spread the message of Reconciliation among their peers.

In the evening of Mabo Day on June 3, staff attended the launch of a book, Power of the Story, by Aunty Betty Pike at the Treacy Centre in Parkville. It is a beautiful book that is available through John Garrett Bookstore. Earlier in the day at Avila, there was a lunchtime of students signing a letter to our Premier, Ted Baillieu, inviting him to visit Avila to explain his position on the Acknowledgement of the Land. At Avila this practice has become part of our identity through the support of our College leaders. We have suggested that the government adopts a similar leadership model to create a culture of recognition for the traditional custodians of the land.

Inter School Reconciliation Committee

Avila attended the inaugural meeting of this Eastern suburbs group which includes Genazzano College, Xavier College, Presbyterian Ladies College, Methodist Ladies College and Canterbury Girls College.

It was an exciting meeting with the students taking the first steps in using their combined knowledge to work for Reconciliation.

One of the members of the group spoke powerfully of the challenge for traditional owners posed by people walking on Uluru. Over the past 12 months some people have defiled the area with media stunts, and also poor hygiene practices that have resulted in the waterholes at the base of the rock being no longer safe for the locals to swim. The group is considering what action to take. Members of this group participated in ‘The Long Walk’ at the Dreamtime at the G.

Year 10 student and member of the Avila Reconciliation Group, Kate Riethmüller, felt privileged to be part of the inter school group: ‘It was touching to know that there were so many young people eager to make a difference and to raise awareness for issues that are so important in Australia today and will continue to be so into the future ...

‘We discussed prominent issues involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and also discussed ideas on what we could do within our schools to raise awareness of the issues. It was really interesting to hear what other schools did, and to hear about the experience that each of these different schools and students had encountered.

Mrs Christine Valladares
Avila Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator
Avila Matters Term 1, 2011

Rostrum Voice of Youth competition - two State finalists
Two Avila students - Kathryn Elliott and Shalini Harasgama - made it through to the Victorian State finals of the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition. Avila College was to host the finals on Saturday June 25; the results were unknown at the time of publication.

Kathryn and Shalini, together with Leah Holt, Felicity Hogg, and Roshali Lokuge competed in the initial heats at Mount Scopus Memorial College on May 29.

For the first round of the day, we were separated into different rooms with seven people in each and were asked to give our prepared speeches. A person from each room was chosen to go into the semi final. Katie, Shalini and Roshali made it through which meant that three of the five semi finalists in the Junior division were from Avila. In the semi finals each person had to give their prepared speech again and then a short-notice speech. Once again Avila dominated with Shalini and Katie chosen for the State finals.

Plain English Speaking competition
In another Avila coup, Year 11 student Sashika Harasgama was named runner up in the Plain English Speaking competition run by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Sashika provided the following report: ‘Asylum seekers, ANZAC day, ‘whether ignorance is bliss’, and ‘happiness’ were some of the many social themes and issues highlighted in this year’s Plain English Speaking competition, a public speaking contest run by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

‘The competition requires a prepared speech showing awareness of world issues, and an impromptu speech, both spoken in ’plain english’. Meera Fernandes and Sashika Harasgama gained some great insights at the competition, as well as witnessed some outstanding speaking. It was a fantastic day, exploring our generation’s concerns and views, and shedding light on the plight of our world. I was thrilled to be placed second in the competition’.

Ainger Public Speaking competition
In a hat trick for public speaking finalists, Kala Gare was a finalist in the Ainger Public Speaking competition conducted by the Rotary Club of Richmond on May 30. Nathalie Dabrowski also put in a strong performance.

Kala made the following comments: The competition was a new experience for me because it was judged more on the way you spoke to your audience, and less on the actual subject matter. The judges were looking for the effective use of inflections, pauses, word pictures, eye contact, pacing, and overall, how you engaged the audience.

An amazing variety of speeches was presented. Some were funny, some were deadly serious, and some almost brought one of the judges to tears. The topics ranged from karma, a school trip to Egypt, and a great grandfather who fought in a war, to a new school in a different country, misconceptions about Muslims, motivation, and my speech on animals being used in sports.

The competition was very worthwhile because learning to speak confidently and engagingly is a valuable, life-long skill. A big thankyou also to Mrs Catherine Spurritt and Ms Amy Foster who helped me prepare my speeches. Kala Gare, Year 9

The Ainger Public Speaking competition was an entertaining night, where students focused on how they presented their speeches. Although my speech on motivation did not finish in the top three, it was definitely enjoyable to hear the other students speak on a range of topics and exercise effective speech and communication with the audience. Congratulations to Kala Gare who was runner up in her heat and was chosen as a wildcard entry for the regional final!

Nathalie Dabrowski, Year 11
Undefeated start in interschool debating

Avila’s debaters were a force to contend with at the three inter-school debating rounds at Wesley College.

The girls exhibited Avila’s flawless reputation at these competitions displaying excellent manner, confidence and well researched matter on issues such as gender equality in the workforce, solitary confinement for prisoners, the use of animals in sport and drug testing of school students. Avila’s debating prowess was evident in the Debater’s Association of Victoria (DAV) Ladder after Round 3, where all the Avila teams were either first or second, with four teams undefeated!

Junior Debating also commenced in June, with 170 enthusiastic year 7s and 8s signing up - a new Avila record of 36 teams! Good work girls, keep up the amazing efforts.

All in all the girls have shown their amazing talent and skills, spreading the “Avila effect”; we couldn’t be more proud! Go Avila!

Bianca Blaze and Kruttika Pawar
Year 12 Public Speaking captains

Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

Four Avila students from Year 10 and Year 11 were fortunate to be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mount Waverley to participate in the two-day Model United Nations Assembly at Parliament House on the weekend of May 30 and 31.

The Year 10 team of Bridget Jackson and Genevieve Townsend represented Timor Leste (East Timor) and the Year 11s, Sinead McKittrick and Jessica Chen, represented Israel. The teams researched their countries over the holidays to learn and better understand the relevant political issues and the country’s position on 12 resolutions that were to be debated at MUNA.

Dressed in costumes to help authenticate our roles, we were treated like real politicians. It was both scary and exciting to experience what politicians do - controversy, drama and very passionate speakers expressing differences in opinion!

The first resolution debated was the death penalty. Each team had to present its country’s view on the issue, rather than the debaters’ personal ones, and provide as much supporting information as possible. It was not long before everyone had the confidence to speak with passion and conviction. We formally addressed the Secretary General and assembly with ‘Mr. Secretary General, we the delegates from Timor Leste...’ just as real United Nations delegates would!

On the Sunday we were given a tour of the Upper House and sat in the same seats as some of our local members, before finishing our last session for the day. Between sessions we were extremely well fed and supplied with amazing lunches that were filled with conversations of the next topic. By the end of the day people were comfortable enough to bring humour into their arguments. One of the delegates from France even debated that the congress should agree with their country because they had cool hats and croissants!

MUNA gave us more confidence with speaking and although it was formal, it was fun working with other secondary school students. We also learned an invaluable amount about the United Nations, international politics, and the way the world works.

We are very appreciative for the opportunity and we would like thank Mount Waverley Rotary for its sponsorship and this wonderful experience.

Bridget Jackson and Genevieve Townsend, Year 10 Public Speaking and Debating

Junior Debating

The 2011 Avila Junior Debating competition has highlighted the tremendous talent we have in years 7 and 8.

Thirty-six teams signed up for lunchtime debating and they grappled with the value of single sex schools and the content of magazines. The adjudicators for these debates have come from the ranks of our senior DAV teams.

Bridget Roache has been elected Junior Public Speaking and Debating Captain for 2011.

Bianca Blaze and Kruttika Pawar
Year 12 Public Speaking captains
A visit to the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Elsternwick on May 10 was a confronting, yet valuable experience for a group of VCAL students.

A Jewish man welcomed us to the centre and screened a slideshow about the tragic events that happened between 1933 - 1945, the Holocaust. The pictures of the deceased and people suffering were very confronting. It is hard to explain how I felt but I was shocked by what I saw. Just from that slideshow, I became more aware of what happened in the actual camps. Many questions were on my mind about why Hitler felt the need to do what he did.

After this introduction we were then taken on a tour of the museum by an interesting lady. The museum wasn’t very big, but it had a lot of very good information, pictures and models of the people and the camps. There were photographs everywhere of survivors and their families. Some of the photographs we saw and stories we were told were horrific - the people who survived would never have been the same again. There was a case of 1,000,000 buttons, with each button representing a child who had died. I thought that was a lot until we were told that they had another five cases.

My favourite part of the tour was the model of the camp, and some of the photographs taken in 1933. The model of the camp had a lot of detail, it seemed so real. When looking at the photos in the museum you kind of got a shiver. It was very disturbing seeing dead bodies piled on top of each other, and also the photos of Hitler, standing there thinking what he was doing was right. The photographs told a story, the story of a man who turned into the perpetrator of so much pain to more than six million people. I wonder if, when Hitler killed himself, he felt any sense of remorse.

I don’t think I would be the same person if I was caught in something as scary as the Holocaust. Losing all your family, friends, neighbours and people you know, would be hard if you survived. You would have no-one to support you, you would have to become a stronger person by yourself. This affected my view on mankind because now I think strongly that people should be treated equally. It shouldn’t matter what colour skin you have, how tall, short or what nationality you are. Everyone has a right to live freely.

After the tour we went back to the auditorium to speak and listen to Rosa, a survivor of the camp. She was one of the most inspirational people I have ever met. Rosa came across as a very strong lady with a very interesting background. Rosa was from Poland, she had three sisters and a brother. Her older sister and brother were the only ones who survived. Rosa was just 13 when she went into the camp and came out at 18. While she still had her whole life in front of her, she missed out on the things kids would do between the ages of 13 and 18.

Rosa migrated to Australia, married, and has two children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She said that she has proved Hitler wrong. He wanted to kill the whole Jewish race, yet she survived and had a family, of which she is very proud. Rosa went through something very horrible, but has come out a much stronger person. She said that what happened to her will always be with her, but she’s glad that she’s alive and has a beautiful family.

This day was the best experience, I really enjoyed it.

Madeline Coad
11 Purple
Melbourne Walk

On a cold, wet autumn day, the Year 9 class studying Our Common Wealth went on a tour of historical Melbourne. The day began with a visit to the Old Treasury Building where we had a tour of the building discovering the vaults where gold from the gold rush of the 1850s was stored; and the office of our second prime minister, Alfred Deakin; and we also sat at the table where our current Governor of Victoria meets with the Premier and the Cabinet every Tuesday. After learning about the early history of Melbourne and how the gold rush contributed to the prosperity of the colony of Victoria, we began our own student guided tour of historical landmarks and statues. In groups, students provided an informative guide to the rest of the class on people such as John Batman, John Fawkner, Matthew Flinders, and Burke and Wills. We visited buildings such as Parliament House, the Princess Theatre, old Rialto building and the Block Arcade that highlighted the wealth and growth of Melbourne. After having a treat of chocolate at Haighs we made our way back to Avila. Despite the wet weather, our spirits weren’t dampened.

Year 9 Our Common Wealth students

Sovereign Hill

Sovereign Hill was the destination for a group of Year 9 History students on May 13. We spent the day gaining an in depth appreciation of the gold rush period. Our first activity was ‘A woman’s work is never done!’ This included us dressing up as women of the 1800s and going out to different locations to do some household jobs. Another activity we undertook was touring the Red Hill Mine. It was a bit scary at some points, but it was really enjoyable. We also enjoyed a bit of free time to go into the shops and have a look around ... the lolly shop was a definite favourite. It was a fantastic day where we learned a lot and had heaps of fun.

Emma Pugliese and Natalie Tsatas

Melbourne and Immigration museums

On May 13, the Year 9 students undertaking the subject of History: Whose story is it? were fortunate to visit the Melbourne Museum and the Immigration Museum. We had been focusing on how the Aborigines were affected by the settlement of the Europeans (in class), so this day out was a great opportunity to reinforce our knowledge. At the Melbourne Museum, we visited the Melbourne Story exhibition, where we were able to see how much life in Melbourne has changed since the 1850s. Bunjilaka is the Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Melbourne Museum. In Bunjilaka, we attended the exhibitions ‘Belonging to Country’ and ‘Koori Voices’. Both were full of Indigenous art and objects and also stories of both hardship and joy. At the Immigration Museum, much was learned about the history of immigration and the hardships of leaving a country to settle in a new one. ‘The Journeys of a Lifetime’, ‘Immigrant Stories’, and ‘Timeline’ exhibitions gave us an understanding of what it would be like to be an immigrant. The museum day was an enjoyable learning experience for everyone.

Monica De Rango

History
Move over Master Chefs

Move aside master chefs, Avila’s Food and Technology Department is oozing with talent, productivity, and challenge.

From home made pasta and preserves to muffin baking, high teas, visiting chefs, and even a ‘mystery box challenge’, Semester One was full of engaging experiences for both students, and staff.

Year 12 Food Technology students were busy developing their food handling skills in preparation for Unit 4 in Semester Two when they will undertake their SAT folio based on a topic of their own choice.

They made their own preserves using crab apples and a range of seasonal berries, and creatively dressing their finished products (pictured above). They also witnessed the making of pasta the traditional way (without the pasta machine) by Mrs Maria Marino, the mother of Ms Carmela Marino. Students then tried their hand at pasta making and developing their skills in understanding the importance of development of gluten in dough production.

Avila Master Chef Mystery Box Challenge

Mystery box challenges do not just happen on Master Chef! Year 12s were given a mystery box of ingredients to turn into a main meal. The students demonstrated great enthusiasm and expertise in demonstrating their creativity, innovation and application of skill.

The following student comments highlight how such an activity can be so valuable to students:

- An interesting experience that challenged my skills and creativity. Wistyra Tuckett
- It was the challenge of making us think! You had to use your knowledge of the ingredients and work under the pressure. Eloise Benedos
- Stressful, but a great experience in working individually. Chloe Rooney
- Using an ingredient such as polenta showed us where we needed to research more. Ella Gasowski

Home Economics visitor

During the semester, Avila’s Food Technology Department welcomed Miss Melissa Evans, a teacher at St Joseph’s College Ferntree Gully. As part of her post graduate study in Home Economics training with Home Economics Victoria, Miss Evans completed a series of observation rounds at Avila.

Ms Carmela Marino, Food Technology Teacher

Eager to discover the contents of their ‘mystery boxes’ are, from L-R, Eloise Benedos, Jessica Ryan, Chloe Rooney, Ella Gasowski, Olivia Adcock, Elizabeth Irving and Victoria Radnell.
**Muffin design champs**

Avila’s culinary strengths and creativity were once again evident at the Year 8 Muffin Design Challenge with Tyreen Hasna and Shanaya Rupesinghe gaining third place for their entry.

The competition, organised by the Home Economics Victoria (HEV), is open to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria. Students are required to design a sweet or savoury muffin based on a selection of criteria. Tyreen and Shanaya worked co-operatively and creatively to develop the prize winning recipe for cheese and baby spinach muffins (pictured below), with baby spinach as the casing for the muffin mix.

The girls were presented with a copy of *Cookery Australian Way*, with co-author Shirley Cameron on hand to sign the books.

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**Cooking up an amazing Asian storm**

*Food is an excellent window to culture: what better means could there be to understand how people live.*

2008 PETTID, M. Korean Cuisine- an illustrated history

With this quote in mind, Mrs Sue Rowell and I launched ourselves into a two-day culinary journey and an Asian master class experience during the Term One school holidays.

Upon our arrival at Stephanie Alexander’s Kitchen Garden Trial Kitchen at Collingwood College we were greeted with aprons, recipes and the inimitable Tony Tan, a renowned Asian Chef, restaurateur, cooking school owner, presenter on SBS Television and the Cultural Director of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival. He also runs gourmet food tours to countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Italy.

The focus of the first day was Chinese cuisine and Tony delivered an amazing historical perspective to introduce us to regional cooking. Six hours later, having worked with a team of other secondary and primary school teachers we were proud to present Fragrant Eggplant, West Lake Fish, Sichuan Twice Cooked Pork, Spring Onion Cakes, Hainanese Chicken, Stir Fried Lamb and Almond Jelly with Mixed Berries.

Day Two was straight into cooking to prepare the most amazing Beef Rendang featuring 10 chillies, ginger, garlic, galangal and lemongrass. As it gently simmered away for three hours, Tony discussed Indonesian cuisine and examined its Chinese, Portuguese and Dutch heritage. After another three hours of preparation the table was laden with Vegetable and Coconut soup, Lumpia (spring rolls) Satay Lilit (a seafood satay wrapped on stems of lemon grass) Beef Rendang, Balinese Nasi Kuning (Yellow Rice), Hot Spicy Fried Tempeh Sambal and Sticky Black Rice Pudding.

Tony demonstrated techniques, and discussed ingredients at great length. He gave advice on where to purchase Asian ingredients and which shops would be, in his words ‘round eye friendly’! He chastised, goaded, reprimanded and congratulated - giving us a real ‘chef’ experience!

While we haven’t emerged as Asian cuisine experts the experience we had will help to us to impart greater knowledge and skills to our students.

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Mrs Elizabeth Trembath, Head of Food Technology

Avila Matters Term 1, 2011 - 15
Enterprising businesses

As part of the Year 11 Business Management class, we were able to plan and operate our own business enterprises in Term Two.

Each group was required to develop a business concept, write a business plan, operate the enterprise and evaluate its success or failure.

The business enterprises included Flossy Floss, Chocolate Galore, Rupture Pops – Chocolate Crackles and Honey Joys, Charcoal Barbeque, Scratched Vinysl Music Festival and Lock-It Locker cleaning service.

Most of the enterprises operated during the music festival on May 27. At the beginning of lunchtime, there was music pumping, sausages sizzling and queues for the stalls were growing! Chocolate Galore and Rupture Pops soon realised that they had underestimated demand for their products and sold out. Fairy Floss had to deal with a queue of hundreds and were unable to produce enough product for their market. Meanwhile the girls on the barbecue cooked and sold 100s of sausages, and at the music festival, individuals showcased their talents.

The assessment task provided great hands-on learning. It gave students an insight into the roles and responsibilities involved in running a small business. We had to organise plans, think about our operations and evaluate the success of our business. We also had to deal with working under pressure and meeting customer demands.

The business enterprises were very successful and made a combined profit of just over $1000. As a class we decided to donate the money to breast cancer research.

Girls ‘make it go’!

Possible career paths in the manufacturing and engineering sectors was the focus of a Year 11 VCAL excursion to the Ringwood Trade Training Facility at Ringwood Secondary College on May 27.

The class attended a special information session where three guest speakers, all women, talked about their careers in manufacturing and the different paths they took. We were then able to participate in a variety of hands-on workshops.

The first guest speaker was from ANCA tool grinders and she screened a short video clip about how new technology impacts on equipment design and the environment. The second speaker talked about her career in the confectionery industry. The third speaker described the different career paths she tried, before focusing more on her hobbies which led her to becoming an aeronautical mechanic apprentice at QANTAS.

After the presentations we were able to experience different workshops in manufacturing. For example, in one workshop we could make a metal butterfly key holder using the latest equipment. Not only did we need to use our hands, but also our mathematical skills to solve measurement issues.

It was a very beneficial excursion.

Ngoc Tran, Kayla Van Rooyen, Sarah Schoorman, Tsz-yan Littlejohn and Danielle Dimech
During the Term One holidays, 25 Avila Year 10, 11 and 12s and six teachers travelled to France for the trip of a lifetime.

En route we also enjoyed a stop over in Kuala Lumpur where we spent a day visiting sights such as the Batu Caves, National Monument, and the Batik Factory.

Upon our arrival in the grand city of Paris, we were immediately immersed, listening to the French language spoken all around us and visiting famous sights such as Sacré Coeur where many of us walked to the dome of the Basilica and caught our first sight of the Eiffel Tower!

We spent a further four days in Paris, touring iconic places such as the Musée du Louvre, Château de Versailles, Notre Dame, Claude Monet’s House and magnificent garden, and the River Seine, Opera House and many more beautiful pieces of ancient Parisian architecture and history. We enjoyed the mandatory photo stop at the Eiffel Tower, and spent a very special night having dinner on the tower itself, and admiring the stunning views of Paris. Another memorable night included dinner near the Moulin Rouge, and then a climb up the long spiral staircase inside the Arc de Triomphe to be again rewarded by a beautiful view from the top.

Next was the town of Tours, via Chatres Cathedral and Cave des Roches (a mushroom cave). In Tours, we visited Futuroscope (a cinema theme park) and the Loire Valley. It was here, that the group fell in love - with an amazing shop called H&M (where some debit cards had to be topped up!). Next was Saint Malo, a picturesque coastal town, and a tour of Mont St Michel, a beautiful working abbey situated on its own island. A stop at an Oyster Farm and some tasting followed - but was not to everyone’s fancy!

After a visit to the ancient Bayeux Tapestry, we continued to Caen, where we gained a moving and far greater appreciation of war history and Australia’s involvements. We shared in a beautiful liturgy on peace on Good Friday at the Caen Peace Memorial. At Amiens, which is on the Somme Battlefields, the war history was incredible and the number of cemeteries, and their beauty, was touching and quite sad. We attended a service in French at the grand Amiens Cathedral on Easter Sunday morning and our brains worked overtime to translate what was being said. We then walked through an artificial WWI trench with artefacts and realistic wax figures.

In a sleepy daze at 3 am on ANZAC Day morning, we boarded a coach and headed towards the tiny town of Villers Bretonneux, where we attended a moving Dawn Service. The service and its location were beautiful. Also, it was fascinating to learn more about the rich history of the town and Australia’s role in saving it during the German Advance. As we watched the sun rise, and listened to the Last Post being played, we were all deep in thought and admiration for the soldiers who died for the good of France, Australia, and the rest of the world.

We spent our final night in France, shopping in the Latin quarter of Paris. Then, after a nerve-racking trip through customs for many girls (as a few kilograms worth of clothes had been added to suitcases!), we boarded our return flight for Melbourne.

During our trip we were delighted to catch up with Year 9 Co-ordinator Mrs Anne Stephens who was visiting France during her long service leave, and also Class of 2010 graduate Nicole Paulding who has taken a gap year to further her French by working as an au pair (nanny) in France and to also travel.

‘Merci Beaucoup’ to the staff who accompanied us - Ms Andrea Venier, Mrs Christine Valladares, Mrs Michelle Hanger, Ms Jenny Dunn, Mrs Fiona Wright, and Mrs Nicole North-Coombes - and to everyone else involved in allowing us to experience such an amazing country, while brushing up on our French knowledge and accents! We did so many simply amazing things during our three weeks in France, and it has left us all itching to go back. Anita Coffa, 10 Blue
A

vila’s beautiful young women, their handsome partners and a stunning venue all added up to a magical evening for the much-anticipated Year 11 Formal at the Powerhouse Function Centre at Albert Park on April 29.

The evening started with a constant flow of limousines, hummers, party buses, taxis and family cars that transported the guests of honour - the Year 11s and their partners - to the venue.

Principal Ms Louise Gunther and Deputy Principal (Curriculum), Mrs Madeleine Franken, officially welcomed students and their partners as they made their way into the function centre.

All the effort the ladies had put in to their make-up, hair, shoes and dress really paid off with everyone looking breathtaking, and so too did the boys in their dapper suits. It was refreshing to see the teachers all dressed up and with their dancing shoes on.

The food was very ... adventurous ... but was enjoyed by most, and everyone enjoyed the music, even though it seemed a bit dated.

A huge thank you to the Year 12 VCAL girls who did such a wonderful job organising the evening.

Felicity Jackson, Naomi Riley and Penny Couper

Photographs courtesy Cathy O’Reilly
There are those who don’t believe time travel will ever be possible, but the talented students of Avila College proved otherwise when they travelled back to the past, as well as into the future, at the 2011 Creative Arts Festival on May

Celebrating its 25th year, the festival was a wonderful night of music, dance and drama which brought back memories and explored what looked like an extremely intriguing future.

Thanks to Marty and The Professor and the invention of the flux capacitor, we were transported to the 1800s where Amadeus Mozart made an appearance on stage. We explored the world of Narnia through the wardrobe and went forward to the year 3000 with some hardcore rockers. We watched a video of two dancers dancing their way from ancient Greece to the current day of rave dance, and listened to the heavenly sound of a harp ensemble playing classical music from long ago. And this was all in the first act!

The second act was a blur on stage. It was chaos and craze in a fun-filled, entertaining second half. Two news reporters commented on major events of the past. We revisited the Titanic sinking, man’s first steps on the moon and the wise words of Martin Luther. A nutty professor created a time machine to take his assistant back through the moments of his life. A genie took a girl on an adventure through Wonderland with Alice, Hogwarts with Harry and the city of love, and Verona to visit Romeo and Juliet. A group of cave women took to the stage with dance and the final item, complete with mimes, scientists and penguins, ended the night on a fabulously time confusing note.

All in all, I’d say the night was a timely success!

Congratulations and thank you to the hundreds of talented students who performed on stage, to the back stage crew who helped make such a huge undertaking look so effortless, and to the Art and Drama departments. A special thank you to Acting Director of Music, Mrs Clarissa Seamer, for helping make it all possible.

Meera Fernandes, 2011 Music Captain

Photographs: Ms Jolenta Kirkwood
Year 7 camp is one of the annual highlights on the Avila calendar and this year was no exception with 198 very excited Year 7s, 15 Year 10 Peer Helpers, and Year 7 staff spending three fun-filled days at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort from May 5 - May 7.

The camp was a huge success and the girls fully embraced all of the activities with determination and enthusiasm. Whether it was conquering the high ropes or going all the way to the top on the giant swing, the girls gave it their all to move beyond their comfort zone.

The Talent Show demonstrated teamwork and gave each class an opportunity to display many of their hidden talents. The Liturgy was a wonderful time to reflect on each girl’s journey so far this year and the Trivia Night was a huge success and gave the girls a chance to dress up with a touch of glitz and glamour.

The Year 7s also visited the Penguin Parade and saw more than 1000 penguins in their natural habitat.

Even the early wintry conditions, could not dampen the enthusiasm of all those who attended the 2011 Year 7 camp at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort where many friendships were forged and new challenges embraced.

Confronted with the challenge of facing their fears and engaging in new experiences, students acknowledged, ‘this was the best time to confront our fears, believe in ourselves and have a go’ (Janet Alappadan, 7 Green). In addition, Year 7 camp allowed the students and teachers ‘to be able to listen, co-operate and work with others’ saying it was ‘a great skill to have’ (Erin Flatters, 7 Green).

The Year 7 Camp Liturgy was a special occasion for all and also attended by Principal, Ms Louise Gunther and Deputy Principal (Administration), Ms Rebecca Cetrola. The theme of the beautiful Liturgy was ‘We are stars - let your light shine’ with students taking time to reflect on how to be a shining star and a light in the world, doing something small to make a difference.

The camp was action packed with a full program of activities ranging from paddling through the water in canoes to gliding on the flying fox. The giant swing allowed students to face their fear of heights and activities such as the team rescue encouraged students to co-operate with one another, build trust and make new friendships. The activities at times were challenging but helped bring students closer together through mutual support and encouragement, as well as providing some exciting memories.

Another great experience was the visit to the Penguin Parade. Chelsea Jones, 7 Green, recounted: It was a cold night. The penguins emerged from the sea and marched across the beach to their sand dune burrows. It was an unforgettable experience!

After the Penguin Parade, the students returned to the resort and prepared for their class performances. The performances included Whip My Hair, Seven Continent Rap, Aerobics, Dancing with the Stars and Justin Bieber’s, Never Say Never. For the final night of camp, students dressed up in many different costumes in preparation for the Trivia Night! It was very enjoyable!

The Year 7s returned to Melbourne, tired but elated and with a positive attitude towards new friendships and new experiences.

As Catherine Pagliaro, 7 Green, summed up the three days: ‘I think school camps are definitely beneficial as students can make new friends, jump out of their comfort zone and go somewhere they may not have been before.’

Content and design by Bethany Oleyar-Hogan, Laura Anderson and Jessica Chin as part of a unit assignment for VCE VET Interactive Digital Media
True to form, Avila put up a strong show at the 2011 Aerobics Championships in Geelong on Sunday, May 15. Electric Atmosphere was placed second, going straight through to the State finals to be held at Wyndham on June 26. Supersonic, Dynamic Fusion and Switch made it through to the repercharge round, competing for a wildcard entry into the State finals. The repercharge rounds will be held in the morning and the State finals in the afternoon.

**Avila in State aerobics final**

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**World cheer leading success in America**

Two Avila students were among a 24-member squad who gained exceptional results at the world cheerleading championships in the United States in late April/early May.

Kathryn Eales, Year 12, and Lauren Mazurek, Year 11, both members of Cheerleading Victoria based at Wantirna, competed at Disneyland in Florida. Kathryn was in the Australian Outlaws co-ed team while Lauren was in the Dreamgirls all-girls team.

The Outlaws team was third in its division in the World Cup and sixth in the International All-Star Federation (IASF) world championships. Meanwhile the Dreamgirls enjoyed a triumphant debut as the first all-girls Australian team to compete internationally. The team was second in the International Cheerleaders Union championships, fifth in the America Nations Cup and ninth in the IASF world championships.

Both Kathryn and Lauren said they enjoyed the athleticism of cheer leading as well as the team spirit and shared passion with other practitioners.
Sterling performances at SCSA competitions

Avila's sportswomen have put in some sterling performances in SCSA competitions across many codes in Semester One.

Swimming
The Avila College swim team raced in the annual SCSA swimming competition at MSAC on March 24.

We competed against nine other schools, with many students receiving first and second ribbons for their races.

The highlight of the night was placing 1st in the intermediate section, 5th in both junior and senior sections. All girls who participated swam exceptionally well the whole night with Avila College placing 3rd overall for a fantastic finish to the night.

Dannielle Costello
Swimming Captain

Athletics
On May 24 The Avila College athletics team set off for Olympic Park with lots of energy and enthusiasm for the day ahead.

In usual Avila style, the girls were full of College spirit and determination, giving it their all when they competed. There were exciting moments during the day with many Avila girls performing exceptionally well in the 100m sprint. The Year 7 relay was brilliant with the speedy Nana Owusu-Afriyie blitzing in the last 100m to guarantee victory. The Juniors finished 3rd, the Inters 6th and the Seniors with a respectable fifth placing. A big thanks to Miss Sarah Tutchener, Mrs Donna Bell, Miss Nerida King, Ms Lisa Manning and Mrs Cathy Bolduan for their efforts in preparing the girls for the meet. Well done girls!

Emily Papadimitriou and Melissa Harrex
Athletics captains

Basketball
Avila has much to look forward to in SCSA Basketball if the Junior team is any indication.

The juniors won the grand final at the 2011 SCSA Basketball competition hosted by Avila College at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Friday, May 27. Also, Jessica Harley was named Most Valuable Player in the junior competition.

Upholding Avila's strong performance at SCSA basketball, our Intermediate and Senior teams were placed third.

Many thanks to the coaches Ms Lisa Manning, Miss Sarah Tutchener and Mr Allan Kennedy and Head of Sport, Miss Nerida King.


Hundreds of students from Avila College converged on the Bill Sewart Athletics Track in Burwood on April 4 for one of the most anticipated annual events on the College’s calendar.

With many proudly displaying their House colours, students from every year level showed enthusiastic support for their teams, on the track and cheering from the sidelines. In keeping with Avila tradition, the Year 12s dressed to a particular theme and this year looked fantastic in their ‘Blast from the Past’.

The encouragement and participation displayed by all students was reflected in this year’s results. The stands, which were filled with the roar of supportive cheers throughout the day, grew silent as students waited in anticipation for the announcement of the results. This 2011 overall winner was Flynn while Nagle took home the Reynolds Memorial Shield for best team spirit.

The individual champion and runner up from each year level:

Year 7: Champion Breanna Beltrame (Mackillop), runner-up Zoe Lenton (Flynn)/Georgia Abbott (Nagle)
Year 8: Tamara Ludekens (Chisholm), runner-up Jacqueline Sharp (Flynn)
Year 9: Kate Townsend (Flynn), runner-up Sarah Lamb (Nagle)
Year 10: Ally Forrest (Flynn), runner-up Bianca Malietzis (Chisholm)
Year 11: Emily Ryan (Mackillop), runner-up Ilena Gentile (Flynn)
Year 12: Kathryn Eales (Chisholm), runner-up Sally Redman (Nagle)

Thank you to all the staff and students who helped organise the event. Their work behind the scenes goes a long way to ensuring that the day was one full of enjoyment.

Main picture: Alice Whelan, Year 8, does Mackillop proud as she clears the high jump.

Content and design: Liz Elliott and Emily McCarthy, 12 Silver, as part of a unit assignment for VCE VET Interactive Digital Media.