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

This issue of Avila Matters is a celebration of student achievement across an incredible range of activities, both within and beyond the classroom, and highlights what our students accomplish if they are prepared to work hard towards their goals.

From leadership, social justice issues and community service, to public speaking and debating to languages, science, the arts, and sport, the list goes on...

These achievements reflect team work and commitment, and a connectedness and responsibility to community, as well as individual successes.

Accomplishments mirror breadth of student capabilities

Throughout the term, many staff and students have enjoyed achievements across an incredibly broad range of activities and interests, many of which are featured in this issue of Avila Matters. I extend my congratulations to staff and students for their wonderful accomplishments and successes throughout term. The ‘media wall’ that I have on display in my office highlighting student achievements seems to grow week by week – how proud I am to see these accomplishments. But, as we all know, achievements are measured in so many ways. To our Year 12 students who are about to complete all their final school assessed tasks and undergo trial exams during the second week of the term holidays – your success is measured by the personal goals you set yourselves and aspirations for your lives beyond Avila College.

A number of significant highlights of the term have seen our students shine in their numerous talents and abilities. Our annual combined musical production with Mazenod College saw many of our budding Avila stars performing on stage and as members of the orchestra, for the classic musical, Bye, Bye Birdie. What a wonderful opportunity this affords our students to be able to enhance their acting, singing and musical talents and publicly be affirmed by audience members from both the Avila and Mazenod communities. Thanks are extended to Director Ken Nailon; Rector of Mazenod College, Fr Michael Twigg; all the staff and students who were involved in so many ways, as well as our combined parent groups who willingly support students in this venture.

Bunjil Creation Centre was filled to capacity at the beginning of September for the annual Music Festival. Congratulations to Mrs Clarissa Seamer, acting Head of the Music Department for her planning and guidance of this night and to all our conductors and musical performers who entertained us throughout the evening. The works on display at the Graduate Art Show also highlighted the creative abilities of our senior students undertaking studio arts, design and technology and visual communication and design. The hours of theme selection, drafting, and re-drafting certainly did not go to waste as evidenced by the high standard of works on display. Under the guidance of our accomplished art staff who provide extended support to our students for many extra after-school hours – the gratitude is evident in the high quality of works produced.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Avila Matters which provides a snapshot of the talents and abilities of our Avila community throughout this past term.

Avila Matters cover - Grasping the challenge

ROCK CLIMBING is just one of the many exciting activities in the Year 11 recreation program. The program offers a range of recreational activities that encourage students to participate in new, active and rewarding forms of exercise. For those wishing to push the boundaries and get the heart rate going, rock climbing certainly fits the bill.
Reconciliation group raises profile

The Reconciliation movement at Avila College is leading the way at a broader community level with its involvements and initiatives to raise the profile and give greater voice to issues concerning Indigenous people.

It has been involved in raising the profile of Indigenous issues from local through to State and Federal level.

Further reinforcing Avila’s commitment to Reconciliation, a group of 10 Year 10 students and teachers departed for the Santa Teresa community in the Northern Territory on September 16.

In a special tribute to the Reconciliation movement at Avila, almost four pages of this issue of Avila Matters is dedicated to the work and initiatives of the group. See pages 7, 8 and 9 for full reports.

At a broader community level, Avila College has hosted two major events so far this year - a gathering of Message Stick custodians from throughout Victoria in April and, in August, a ‘Q & A’ on the constitutional recognition of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Constitutional recognition of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander peoples is likely to be the subject of Australia’s next referendum. Avila Reconciliation Co-ordinator, Mrs Christine Valladares, also was guest speaker at conferences for Message Stick Custodians in Bendigo and Wangaratta.

Closer to home, four students with Aboriginal ancestry, attended a special day organised by the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne. The day enabled them to meet with more than 100 other students with Aboriginal heritage from Catholic schools in Melbourne and Geelong.

In addition, Syndal South Primary School invited the Reconciliation Group to help out with an activity day, based on ‘On the Road to Change’, the national theme of the 2011 Naidoc Week. The group was delighted to provide assistance and help spread awareness about Closing the Gap and Aboriginal culture among younger children.

Other initiatives and involvements included:
- Attending the 10th birthday celebrations of the Opening the Doors Foundation.
- Fundraising for the Opening the Doors Foundation to help educate Koori kids.
- Filming for an Avila entry in the Hands Across Australia competition, complete with Avila rap.
- Mrs Anne Vadiveloo, ‘mother’ of the Reconciliation movement at Avila, assisted the 2011 Santa Teresa group with preparations for the immersion trip before their departure on September 16.

Knox ‘Big Tick’ community award

Avila was well represented at a Knox inaugural good citizenship award presentation to the Saint Jude’s Parish youth group, Youth of Today Scoresby (YOTS).

The 25 YOTS leaders presented with the Big Tick award included 2010 Avila College Captain Marnie Banger; and current Year 11 students Kiara Goldsmith, Rebecca Connors, Bianca Woger, Lorraine Vergara and Julia Rush; and Sarah Woger, Year 8; and Siobhan Smeaton, Year 7.

YOTS co-ordinator, Bronwyn Dean, said the award was a well-deserved acknowledgement of what the group achieved, on a weekly basis, for young people and the wider community, in the Knox area.

With the support and assistance of Bronwyn, YOTS runs a monthly youth group focusing on leisure activities for secondary school-aged youth and also weekly youth masses featuring a youth group band. YOTS activities have included a camp for 50 young people aged between 12 and 18, a cabaret which they performed in and organised, Salvation Army Door Knock appeal, and volunteer work at nursing homes.

‘The reward recognises the dedication and commitment of these young people. Without them, we wouldn’t have the group. I am very proud and happy,’ said Bronwyn who launched the youth group three years ago and has seen it grow into a strong and vibrant group during that time.

Bronwyn said it has been extremely rewarding to see how much YOTS’ young leaders have grown and developed through their positions of responsibility, as well as contribute to making the youth group such a success. Greater self confidence, public speaking and organisation and time management are just some of the skills they have gained and will carry through into their adult lives.

The Big Tick project is a collaborative initiative between Knox Council, Knox Youth Services and Victoria Police. The awards recognize outstanding positive behaviour and good citizenship.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in YOTS could contact Bronwyn on 0459 759 687.
Two Avila teams have won berths in the state finals of the Tournament of the Minds (TOM) competition.

The Social Sciences and Applied Technology teams progressed to state level on September 18 after coming first in their respective sections at the regional finals at Deakin University. The results of the state finals on September 18 were not available at the time of publication.

A Maths Engineering team from Avila also competed strongly at regional level but missed out on a berth in the state finals.

The Avila teams each comprised seven students from years 7 through to 10. At Deakin University, each team performed a 10-minute presentation they had been working on for the previous seven weeks in response to set criteria. The themes were 'The camera never lies', 'The journey of a lifetime', and 'The story starts with a single stop'. Students had to make costumes and props from a limited range of materials. The teams also had to take part in a spontaneous challenge on the day.

Many families and staff attended to support the teams when they competed at Deakin University. A special thank you to the staff who helped the teams prepare: Mrs Brenda Dent, Mrs Carmel Nicolson, Ms Geraldine McKenna, Miss Maddie Scott-Jones, Mrs Sophie Clapperton and Ms Liana Griggs.

Mrs Sarah Thom-Tydell
Avila Tournament of the Minds Co-ordinator

Two Avila teams have taken out the top honours in a national Refugee Week competition based on the theme ‘no-one choose to be an asylum seeker’.

Gabby Mogg, Year 7 and Bianca Leone, won first prize for their poster while Hajin Kim and Audrey Thoman won the powerpoint section.

This is the second consecutive year that Avila has won the competition organised by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

Through such initiatives, the ASRC competition aims to open young eyes and minds to a more sensitive and global look at humanity. It hopes to inspire students to challenge preconceptions and gain a deeper understanding of human experiences that are of relevance to us all.

The ASRC wants communities to realise that asylum seeker and refugee issues are ultimately about people and not politics.

Mrs Sarah Thom-Tydell
Avila Tournament of the Minds Co-ordinator

The Applied Technology team from L-R, Kate Riethmuller, Lucy Dever, Genevieve Townsend, Kala Gare and Jessica Frizziero and Olivia Staffieri (seated).
The prestigious Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition is one of the highlights on the LOTE calendar and one in which Avila’s students of Italian excel.

This year was no exception with Avila students being awarded a total of 13 prizes in the recitation and original poetry competitions.

In Term Two students of Italian study selected Italian poems in preparation for the competition in June, a highlight of the school year, partly because the excursion also includes a visit to Lygon Street.

This year Avila received two prizes in the Recitation Section. Congratulations to Kala Gare, Year 9, who was awarded 1st prize, and to Stephanie Fraser, also Year 9, who was awarded 2nd prize.

Students are also given the opportunity to write original poems in Italian on set topics and many of these poems were entered in the Original Poetry Competition.

Avila students have once again excelled in this section with a total of 11 prizes. Many students were awarded merit certificates in both sections.

Congratulations to the following girls who were awarded prizes in the Original Poetry Section:
Year 9: Christina Ishak, 1st; Monica De Rango, 2nd; Jessica Fernando, 2nd; and Nikki Pecora, 3rd.
Year 10: Lauren Trantino, 2nd; Danielle Roberts, 2nd; Tahlia Guneratne, 3rd; and Lisandra Palermo, 3rd.
Year 11: Ailen Pedroso, 2nd; Tamara De Lutiis, 3rd; and Annaliese Prigg, 3rd.

Students received their trophies and beautiful books on Italy at the Presentation Night at Melbourne University on Friday, September 9. A great effort girls! Brave!

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Visual Communication and Design student, Paige D’Souza (pictured) has been placed 8th in the 2011 National Schools Packaging Design Challenge.

In Semester One, the Year 10 VC&D class was given an open-ended design brief that required the research of packaging materials and sustainability issues. This involved a written report and the production of an innovative solution to a packaging design. Paige D’Souza’s excellent presentation was entered into the national design challenge and placed 8th in the Year 10 to 12 category. Her work demonstrated an understanding of packaging issues from sustainability along the whole supply chain, to health and safety, transportation, business and marketing issues.

Last year, Stephanie Berlangieri, now in Year 11, was placed third in the competition and Nicole McMahon, Year 12, was fifth.

Félicitations Rebecca

Félicitations to Rebecca Hadziomerovic, who is studying French 3 & 4 as a Year 11 student, and who presented as a finalist in the Alliance Française Year 12 hors Concours Conversation on Saturday, September 3.

Rebecca (pictured at the Alliance Française office) earned her way through to the competition after receiving a perfect score in a preliminary selection process.

French teacher, Ms Andrea Venier explained that the Year 11 and 12 French students are encouraged to compete in the Alliance Française competition because it is excellent practice for the VCE oral examinations. They were required to converse on general topics for four minutes followed by presenting a studied topic for four minutes. Ms Venier said the students need to demonstrate range and accuracy in language, detailed and interesting content, and be able to engage fluently with the examiner using lovely French pronunciation. In order to reach the finals, Rebecca had to attain an ‘excellent’, which was 20/20!
**Student Achievements**

**Swathi in *The Age* top 20**

Budding author, Swathi Anand, Year 7 Silver, was named in the top 20 in *The Age* MS Ultimate Story writing competition.

Swathi was among 20 Year 7 students from Avila who were selected to take part in Avila’s Year 7 Creative Writing group in Term Two. With the help of Mrs Catherine Spurritt we were able to improve our writing skills and plan out our final copy which was entered in *The Age* competition.

Every week for five weeks, *The Age* featured a chapter of a story. We would read the chapter and complete an activity that would play a part in the story we would eventually create.

The story was based around a boy who was being followed by a mannequin. The mannequin was trying to explain to the boy his future and how his life would play out. The first five chapters were written by professional authors. The sixth chapter was to be written by students in the competition. We had to come up with our own ending to the story.

The winner of the competition had their article published in *The Age* and also received a Penguin book package. Swathi won a spot in the top 20 and was awarded a $200 Penguin book pack. Congratulations Swathi!

**Awards place Avila ‘up in lights’ with MTC**

Avila’s name is ‘up in lights’ at the Melbourne Theatre Company with an Avila student being selected for the MTC ambassador program for the second year running.

Current SRC leader, Fiona Canny was a recipient in the first year of the program in 2010 and Phoebe Tapley is part of the 2011 group.

Following the success of the inaugural ambassador program, the MTC once again offered 25 Year 11 students the amazing opportunity to join like-minded ‘theatre nerds’ from all parts of Victoria to spend eight months, behind-the-scenes, at the MTC.

During her stint last year, Fiona saw an MTC production once a month and engaged in critical group discussions with her peers about the theatre experience. Although she was exposed to some impressive performances from leading actors, the program explored other areas in theatre such as writing and design. She was given the opportunity to speak candidly to theatre industry professionals, was taken on tours around the performance space and was provided with many free MTC tickets for her family and friends.

This year, Phoebe Tapley was chosen from hundreds of other Year 11 students to participate in the program. She is an excellent representative of the Avila community and is thoroughly enjoying her MTC adventure.

**Congratulations to former Avila teacher, Mrs Chelsie Millar (nee Middleton) and her husband Renton on the safe arrival of their baby son Max. Max was born on June 24, weighing 3.75 kg (8.3 lb).**

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**Abigail Dineen and Isabella San Martin-Hall**

**7 Orange**

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*Pictured: Fiona Canny and Phoebe Tapley*
Rostrum ‘Voice of Youth’ National Finalist

Most students look forward to Fridays because it signifies the beginning of the weekend. On Friday July 29, I must admit, I was one of those people; however my reasons were slightly different. It was the day I was flying to Perth for the national finals of the Rostrum ‘Voice of Youth’ public speaking competition.

Upon arriving, the first thing we did was meet all the contestants from the other states. Everyone was so friendly, I soon felt like I had known them for weeks rather than just a few hours. The rest of the day was spent checking out the auditorium where the competition was to be held the next day, and a really fun quiz night.

On Saturday morning, we all visited some of Perth’s great sights. When our tour ended, we returned to the hotel, which is when the nerves began to set in. The actual competition consisted of two parts, the prepared speech, and the impromptu section. The prepared section is when we deliver speeches we have prepared and rehearsed earlier, and the impromptu section is when we are allowed 15 minutes to prepare a speech on a topic we are given. The speeches that were delivered on that night were some of the best I’d ever heard. The ideas and themes that were spoken about were explored deeply, and the delivery of the speeches was nothing short of impressive. I must admit, everyone there could have won. It was competition time. After it was over, we all returned to have one last celebration dinner.

Although I didn’t place, this experience was truly amazing. I have improved so much as a speaker, and I made new friends.

Shalini Harasgama
Year 9 Public Speaking Captain and Victorian Rostrum ‘Voice of Youth’ Junior Winner

Senior Debating and Public Speaking

Avila yet again flaunted its flawless reputation in the final two rounds of DAV Debating this term.

Both were secret topic rounds for A and B grades and debaters had to write up speeches within an hour of knowing the topic. At the end of Round Five, Avila had two teams undefeated! Congratulations to Erin Smart, Sarah Genovese, Sashika Harasgama and Jessica Chen in Year 11, and Shalini Harasgama and, Clarissa Frizziero, Jessica Frizziero, Leah Giakoumis, and Tamar Haigazian in Year 9, who made it to the playoffs. The Year 11s have now progressed through to the Octo-finals - good luck!

The staff vs student debate also attracted an enormous number of students who enthusiastically went over to Bunjil to support (or just heckle?) their teachers, Deputy Principal (Wellbeing) Mrs Christine Kralj, Mrs Anna Cornell and Mr Paul Ekers, in their battle against the Year 12s. The topic this year was that ‘Students should be seen and not heard’, and the Year 12 team of Mia Lentini, Fiona Canny and Georgia Delaney won the debate for the negative side, leaving the teachers, for once, speechless!

Public Speaking has also been busy this term with each year level conducting a search for its very own Public Speaker of the Year. Congratulations to the following girls who took out the title for their year level: Genevieve Wetherill, Year 7; Angela Stapleton Year 8; Kala Gare, Year 9; Jessica Flatters, Year 10; Jessica Chen, Year 11; and joint winners Dina Khoweiss and Victoria Radnell, Year 12.

Junior Debating and Public Speaking - Legacy

Public Speaking has always been one of my special interests but the Legacy Competition put it in a whole new perspective. We were judged on so many things: our tone, voice projection, posture, humour and much more. It was extremely nerve-racking, especially the impromptu speech. But I must admit that it was an amazing new opportunity for me and I gained so much confidence.

There were so many talented public speakers ranging from years 7 to 9. And, while I wasn’t placed, it was so exciting that one of Avila’s Year 8s, Sophia Elliott, won. It was wonderful to see one of our team speak so enthusiastically and passionately. Sophia did a great job at the next level of finals but unfortunately did not progress any further.

I truly enjoyed the competition and I would recommend anyone who enjoys a high standard of public speaking to participate.

Swathi Anand Year 7
In August, the Church’s calendar celebrates two particularly important feast days. Both celebrate women of faith.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is celebrated in the Feast of the Assumption on August 15 while Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia’s first saint, is celebrated on August 8.

When the Church in Australia was in its infancy, the bishops and people often commended the care of their work and lives to the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Indeed, the first cathedral built in this country is dedicated to her. The early Catholic Australians saw in Mary a role model for discipleship. As with any good mother, they would turn to her to ask for help and guidance.

Nearly 100 years later, Mary MacKillop, began her work of providence with and for the poorest of the poor in a variety of places of Australia. She often encouraged her sisters to model their faith and work on Mary, the Mother of Jesus and like her, ‘to ponder these things in [their] hearts’.

Interestingly, about 100 years before Mary MacKillop began her work for the poor in Australia, there was yet another woman, back in Ireland, who was looking after, educating and showing the love of God to the poorest of the poor in Cork. Her name was Nano Nagle. Nano Nagle went on to become the foundress of the Presentation Sisters. It was these sisters who were present in the parish feeder schools and, who responding to a further call, were the first to lead the staff and students in the newly created Avila College.

Like Mary, and Mary MacKillop, Nano Nagle and her Presentation Sisters worked tirelessly in a joyful faith in making known the love of Jesus. Nano was a woman of justice. She was a woman of action who didn’t wait to be asked to provide a service but who went out into the streets of a poverty-stricken city of Cork and literally and symbolically carried the light of faith-filled love to the uneducated young people.

Our young Avila women have taken the best of the examples presented by these three women and done exactly the same. In the myriad of College activities we have participated in this term, the Avila ‘Women of Justice’ have come to the fore. Year 10s and 11s prepared birthing kits for women in Third World countries, Year 10s helped out at the Collingwood Cottage ‘food kitchen’, packaging and distributing food to people from many different ethnic backgrounds living in the local public housing area; listened to and acted upon the words of other women of justice in the Year 8 Christian Living Day, and our Year 7 students are beginning to prepare their great work for the Presentation Mission in the Philippines. The women of Avila in Year 12 have had time to be still and to reflect on how they may best be prophets of hope and justice in the world that they are soon to embark. The SRC expo and a variety of experiences presented by the Reconciliation Group continued this great Avila and Presentation tradition. And hopefully, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, they too will ‘ponder all these things in their hearts’. Like Mary MacKillop they will ‘see a need and respond’. And like Nano Nagle they will ‘carry the lantern’ out into the world shining the light of Christ for the world to see. This is our prayer.

Mr John Rhynehart
Faith Development Co-ordinator

Young women of faith and action

Year 10s show how many hands can make light work as they help out at the Collingwood Cottage ‘food kitchen’ run by two Good Samaritan Sisters (pictured left with the Avila group) and supported by St Vinnies. Mr John King from the Mount Waverley conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society said it was a privilege to accompany the group, ‘the students were ‘an absolute credit to themselves, their families, their teachers and their school’. Sister Helen and Sister Zita are pictured with the Year 10 Avila group, together with Mr Rhynehart and Mr Graeme Sheehan from St Vinnies. Photographs courtesy Mr King.
Avila Q & A on constitutional recognition of Indigenous people

Those who remember 1967 will know that this was a momentous year for Aboriginal Australia. It was the year of the referendum that recognised their humanity by putting them on the census.

On August 25, Avila helped to prepare the community for the next step in formal recognition for Aboriginal people by running a Q & A on the proposal for constitutional recognition of Australia’s First Nations. Currently, the Federal Government is having a period of community consultation that will decide whether a working party recommends a referendum be held (most likely at the next election); whether the statement put to the people offers symbolic recognition in the preamble; or whether it proposes fundamental changes to the body of the constitution by removing racist clauses.

The central speaker at the Avila gathering was Sharon Firebrace, a Yorta Yorta woman with an accomplished career in public life. She spoke of the need for Aboriginal people to be recognised primarily through a treaty as this had proven to be the most effective way for indigenous people to gain sovereignty in other parts of the world. She reflected on the importance of the wording of any changes, pointing out that history would suggest we should be sceptical about the government’s commitment to making substantial changes. She believed that any statement should move beyond tokenism in order to open up real social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Matt Bell from ANTaR spoke of his desire to live in a country with a constitution that would make the community feel proud as it was read. He focused on the current preamble and reflected on its lack of vision. He analysed the sections of the current constitution that allow racist legislation, and the history of the inclusion of those clauses under the White Australian Policy. He encouraged all present to go out and inform their family, friends and workmates about this historic opportunity. If you want to find out more, or express an opinion, go to the consultation group's website: www.youmeunity.org.au

Congratulations to Amy Tremewen and Alysha Rose’ Meyer who hosted the afternoon, ensuring that visitors from other Catholic communities, and the general public, were made welcome. Their commitment to the Reconciliation Group is outstanding.

Mrs Christine Valladares
Convenor, Avila Reconciliation Group

Avila’s Reconciliation Group was delighted to help at Syndal South Primary School’s annual activity day which adopted the Naidoc Week national theme of ‘On the Road to Change’.

The Reconciliation Group’s involvement helped further promote awareness about Closing the Gap and Aboriginal culture and the importance, especially for younger minds, to understand what it is to be Australian.

We jumped at the invitation to help run the day and quickly began brainstorming ideas for activities. We came up with some amazing activities that included didjeridoo painting, hand and face painting and, with chalk, making a virtual road to change. We also set up an activity that gave the students an idea of what Aborigines did to collect and hunt for food using a coolamon. The Syndal South students were so delighted with the cards and bookmarks they received from the Reconciliation Group.

The day was very successful in spreading greater awareness and educating more people about Aboriginal culture and essentially why we should ‘close the gap’. and, we also made some new friends, Syndal South expressed its appreciation with an unexpected feast, a gift of remembrance and a beautiful thank you card. Georgia D’Souza and Caitlyn Quinn, Year 7

Working together to ‘Close the Gap’
Despite the miles between and the busy-ness of day-to-day routines, the strong links between Avila College and the Akeyulerre Inc Healing Centre in Alice Springs are a constant.

The connection was apparent during the 2010 Santa Teresa Immersion trip and more recently with the centre sending a thank you parcel of bush medicine products to the College.

Akeyulerre Inc is a special part of Avila’s tradition of supporting Indigenous people thanks to past staff member, Mrs Anne Vadiveloo, who is considered to be the mother of the Reconciliation movement at Avila and is still involved with the group. Mrs Vadiveloo taught at Avila from 1987 until her retirement in 1999.

Mrs Vadiveloo’s daughter Jane was one of the founders of Akeyulerre Inc, an Aboriginal healing centre that has been developed from the visions of the local Arrente Aboriginal people. The aim of the centre is to protect and strengthen the expertise of Aboriginal people to address many of the problems facing their community, to encourage people to practise their traditions and pass down their knowledge to the next generation.

In 2010, Avila staff members Miss Catherine Ohlsen and Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley visited the healing centre and spent time around the camp fire with elders listening to their stories. An influential member of the centre is a special lady by the name of M.K Turner, whose two daughters travelled from Santa Teresa to Melbourne to attend Avila in the 1980s. The 2010 Santa Teresa group later met with M.K Turner in Alice Springs, together with one of her daughters, Veronica.

In recognition of the ongoing connection between Akeyulerre Inc and Avila College, and to support the centre’s important work and vision, our current Year 10s sent proceeds raised from cake stall sales, as well as a donation from Maria Trettel & Pam Hunter from Sapphire Events debutante balls. In an expression of gratitude, Akeyulerre Inc sent the Avila community some bush medicine products made at the centre.

Mrs Anne Vadiveloo, chats with the 2011 Santa Teresa students from L-R, Rachel Saldanha, Genevieve Townsend, Miranda Koroknai, Sophie Brown, Kelsey Gannon, Emily Asker, Lauren Trantino, Carlie Saunders, Lucy Moon, and Isabelle Wright.

Members of the 2010 Santa Teresa immersion trip with members of the Turner family including Veronica and M.K Turner, centre front, in Alice Springs last year.

Mrs Vadi shares her story

In Term Three, Mrs Anne Vadiveloo shared her knowledge with the ten Year 10 students and three staff members who departed for the Santa Teresa immersion trip on September 16. Mrs Vadiveloo recounted the interesting history of Avila’s connection with the community of Santa Teresa which started in the 1980s, and shared with us how important our annual immersion is in maintaining this relationship. She believes that this journey, for the students and staff involved, is one that could change their lives and affect the difference they will make on the world in the years to come. Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley

Members of the Avila Reconciliation group attended a 10th birthday gathering for the Opening the Doors Foundation at Genazzano FCJ College on August 4.

Guest speaker was author and social commentator, Dr Anita Heiss, a member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales. Dr Heiss stressed that the fundamental driving forces behind change are education and the love of a good mother.

Pictured with Indigenous author, Dr Anita Heiss are from back L-R, Miss Catherine Ohlsen, Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley, Amy Tremewen, Alysha Rose Meyer, Rhiannon Pearce, Mrs Jackie Benton, Tamar Haigazian, and Mrs Lisa Moloney. Front L-R, Leah Giacoumis, Francesca Carl, Jade Carr, and Rebecca Andrews. Photograph courtesy Mrs Tom Coolledge, Genazzano College

Opening Doors birthday

Members of the 2011 Santa Teresa immersion trip with Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley
Proud of Indigenous heritage

Four Avila students, with Indigenous heritage, proudly shared their family stories at a special gathering for Indigenous students from Catholic secondary schools on July 29.

Kimberly Hilton and Bianca Baldwin, both Year 7 Gold, Jade Casemore, 8 Purple, and Kirra Travers, 10 Silver, joined with about 120 other students from Melbourne and Geelong for the inspiring 'Strong Voice' day organised by the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne at the Korin Gamadji Institute at the Richmond Football Club.

Kimberly, Bianca, Jade and Kirra’s families are an important part of Australia’s rich Indigenous history, descending from the Noonuccal mob from Stradbroke Island, Gunai/Kurnai mob from the Lake Tyers area, and a south eastern Tasmanian mob.

It was my privilege to accompany the girls to the ‘Strong Voice’ day where they participated in various activities, celebrating the cultural identity of Indigenous students in Catholic schools. The students listened to inspirational people and swelled with pride in themselves as Indigenous peoples. Our girls spoke of a greater sense of belonging when noticing students with different skin colour, yet all identifying as Indigenous.

Bianca Baldwin: The Strong Voice day was amazing and we heard the unique stories of many interesting people. We were told that the colour of our skin doesn’t matter, we all have the same amount of Aboriginality as every single Aboriginal. Aunty Fay asked us about certain people to see if we knew them. I’d never noticed the person (David Unaipon) on the $50 note who invented shearing cutters. Esme Bamblett, the CEO of the Aborigines Advancement League, told us how important it is to know our identity and be proud of who we are and where we come from. We need to be recognised as Aboriginal people. She told us the story of Gurranyin Borinya (On Eagle’s Wings) which is about how you get 12 flight feathers in your life. We ended the day feeling much prouder of who we are. We would like all the students and teachers at Avila to know we are Aboriginal and proud of it.

Jade Casemore: It was a fantastic day! I learned that there are 38 different Indigenous ‘countries’ in Victoria. The word ‘tribes’ is no longer used. I was blown away that there are more than 300 Indigenous mobs around Australia which is about 500,000 Indigenous people, and I am one of them. This made me feel a great sense of belonging, knowing I am part of this huge culture; it’s not just me, Mum and Nan. We all go way back! We watched an interview with Michael Long who asked us to join in the conversation for better understanding so we can bring about change. He started ‘The Long Walk’ to bring about Reconciliation in 2000 and thousands of people joined him walking over Sydney Harbour Bridge .. Esme Bamblett encouraged us to learn as much as possible and to be strong in our identity so we can be empowered people.

Kirra Travers: The day was really interesting and eye-opening. I was surprised to see the greater number of lighter-skinned kids in the crowd of Indigenous people. We listened to some inspirational talks by people like Aunty Fay Ball who spoke against all the stereotypes and cliches about Aboriginal people. She helped me recognise we are all so different - looks, personalities and values - yet we all have one important similarity, our culture. Esme Bamblett spoke on identity and some famous people like Rosa Parks, who was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus. After this informing day, I can better understand the continual fight for identity to be recognised.

Kimberly Hilton: I was very excited about attending the day. Even Mum and Dad wanted to go. I felt really proud to be a part of it and I’m proud to be Aboriginal. I particularly enjoyed listening to and speaking with Aunty Fay Ball from the Koorie Heritage Trust and who was interested in my mob and where we come from. Earlier this year my Dad and I went to the Dreamtime game at the ‘G’ and I met Michael Long. Aunty Fay spoke about him and other inspiring Aboriginal leaders such as William Barak, William Cooper, Charlie Perkins and Vincent Lingiari.

Mrs Jackie Benton, Teacher and Member of Avila’s Reconciliation Group
Year 10 Community Service changed everyone of us. We all had different experiences, yet we all shared the same feeling of being able to make a difference.

Our experience began with the Year 10 Christian Living Day, where we were briefed about the types of community service that we could all be a part of, and the true meaning of ‘service’. We were told what was expected of us, to give everything that we had, so that someone who had nothing, would have something.

Many of us went to primary schools, day care centres, opportunity shops or nursing homes. It was a chance for everyone to do what they wanted, help who they wanted, give their full attention to the cause that they were willing to help. I went to the Southern Cross Care Lynbrook nursing home. I found that wanting to apply my own knowledge and heart to the task that I wanted to do, was something that just influenced and made stronger the whole ‘giving’ experience of Community Service.

Community Service was just an amazing experience. I really loved helping the supervisors and talking to the elderly people. I had so many conversations that started with ‘When I was young ...’ and ‘when I was your age ...’ which I am sure many of us hear from our grandparents. It was interesting to hear everyone’s story. We had the opportunity to spend a couple of hours each day, just talking to the residents. We played board games, read the newspaper aloud to them, and just talked about anything that was on their minds. We did art classes with the residents who suffered from dementia. We painted the ladies nails, and gave hand massages. We served lunch to all the residents, and helped the nurses clean up. It was hard work – but well worth it!

Community service asked a lot from us. It asked us to accept people with disabilities, which some found a little confronting. It asked us to stop listening to our iPods / texting our friends but focus on those people around us. It asked us for patience and understanding, to be open minded and free-spirited. It was an experience like no other.

Even though Community Service can be challenging, I loved every moment. I became good friends with some of the residents, making sure that I always gave attention to the people who needed it most. I put effort into making the resident feel valued, that people actually cared about them. I gave them the attention that they deserved, and they became a much happier person. This was the aim of Community Service, to help people become happier, to give them that much-deserved attention, to ‘make them feel like a million dollars’. Just like the good samaritan in Luke Chapter 10 gave dignity and worth to the person on the road, we were asked to attend to the needs of others in our community.

Community Service has changed the way that I view my life, how I view others, and how I approach tasks set before me. It was a great experience and lesson in life that I will never forget.

Rebecca Carvalho, 10 Silver
St Paul the Apostle P.S, Endeavor Hills

It was amazing to see the smile on the preps’ faces when they were congratulated on their work. I enjoyed the sport lesson the most and helping improve the grade 6’s skill in T-ball for the Lightning Cup.

Cassandra Lar, 10 Silver
Monash Special Development School

My community service was really rewarding because I had the opportunity to work with students and teachers who really appreciated my help and presence. I really enjoyed the experience and would definitely do it again.

Ally Forrest, 10 Silver
Surrey Hills Primary School

It was an eye opener and it made me appreciate what I have more because I saw how people who have disabilities were able to still have fun and love their life.

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ZONTA Birthing Kit Project

The Year 11 VCAL class took the lead on August 23 to pack and send birthing kits to women in developing countries, particularly Myanmar/Burma.

A team from the ZONTA Birthing Kit Foundation, led by president Pam Sloss, trained and educated the Year 11s about the purpose and practical requirements of birthing kits.

After cutting 3,000 pieces of string and organising the other resources the VCAL class was then ready to put the Year 10s to work. All students had to thoroughly wash their hands and wear latex gloves to keep the kits sterile.

Each kit contains a metre square sheet of plastic, two latex gloves, a piece of soap, a scalpel blade, three pieces of string and five pieces of gauze. We managed to pack, bundle and post 997 kits and most will be sent to Myanmar/Burma. The Year 11 VCAL class raised the funds to send the kits at $2 each. It was a great, practical experience for all those involved and we look forward to continuing our support with this foundation.

The ZONTA Birthing Kit Foundation is a volunteer organisation dedicated to improving the conditions for women who give birth at home in developing countries. With an estimated 525,000 women dying annually in childbirth, many from infections acquired during childbirth, there is a great need for our clean birthing kits.

Further information and ways you can help the foundation are available at www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au

Honouring Mrs Chris Dalwood

The beginning of July was a time for remembering Mrs Chris Dalwood. Current staff and members of the Avila Alumni gathered with members of the Dalwood family for a trivia night. Mrs Dalwood enjoyed a good trivia night, especially if it was an opportunity to raise funds for her beloved Vanessa Grant Girls’ School in Kenya. At the time of Chris’ death her daughter, Fiona, with the support of her father, launched a trust to raise funds for a scholarship to enable a student each year to go on to university. The trivia night raised more than $2,000 for this fund. Chris’ husband Peter, has expressed his sincerest thanks. Thanks, in particular, went to Ms Colleen McCaffrey, trivia night guru, who gave up part of her long service leave to plan the event.

In a further tribute to Mrs Dalwood, the Walker twins, Frances and Michelle, asked guests at their 21st birthday celebrations to make a donation to the scholarship fund in lieu of gifts. An amazing $1500-plus was donated.

Donations are welcome and can be made to: Chris Dalwood Memorial Trust, Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation GPO Box 1851, Melbourne VIC 3001. All donations over $2 are tax deductible.

Year 12 Trivia Night

In the meantime, the successful Year 12 Trivia Night raised almost $2200 to support the work of Sister Frances Boston in Sefare in Botswana. Sister Frances is the sister of long-serving staff member, Ms Angela Boston.

A big thank you to you for the following for their generous donations of prizes: Jomscic Hair and Beauty, Sweet By Nature, Pom Pom Hair & Beauty, Hairy Canary Hairdressing, Liam Jurrah (via Mrs Wijeyesinghe), JB HiFi, Village Cinemas, Apple & Computers Now, Coolabah Landscaping, Cadbury Chocolates, Mrs Liz Trembath, and numerous others in our community.
Have you ever procrastinated over ‘Angry Birds’ or heard of ‘Blast Monkeys’? The three of us, Lindsay McKittrick, Kimielle D’Mello, and Nadeesha Mayadunne, came closer to being more skilled in making these kinds of Apps at Caulfield Racecourse on August 29.

Accompanied by Mr Ziad Baroudi, we presented a workshop at the VITTA annual conference and expo to show teachers the basics in creating apps for mobile devices. After registration, we listened intently to a keynote presentation by a Norwegian entrepreneur, representing a global publishing company. Then, after a beautiful morning tea of macaroons and scones, we headed to our room, to begin our session with 16 teachers from all around Victoria. After sharing the roles of presenting, and helping puzzled teachers, we enjoyed a gourmet lunch, followed by barista made hot chocolate.

Mr Baroudi said the students’ hard work in preparing for the workshop was evident on the day. Many of the teachers in attendance complimented the girls at the end of their session. He added that it was a great experience for the girls to share their knowledge at such a prestigious conference which also features international guest speakers.

Presenting at the VITTA Conference was a memorable experience, particularly as it was such a nice change for us to be the teachers in a reversal of roles.

Wow factor for ICT whizzes

Year 9 members of Avila’s Apps group were captivated by an excursion with a wow factor at Swinburne University of Technology in Semester One.

The day’s program was designed for high achievers and featured a variety of activities including a workshop on network security. We connected to a server while a program logged all network traffic. We then looked at what was captured by that program and, wait for it, we understood nothing! That was until Avila whizz girls, Megan Petersen and Lindsay McKittrick, realised that there was a pattern in the data: It could be used to find out our passwords.

We also enjoyed sessions on computer games and a lecture about Information Systems. Information Systems is the discipline that produces business analysts, the people who look at a company’s information and come up with ways to improve the business.

The highlight of the day was our time in a theatre with 3D projectors. We were treated to animations that explained facts about stars, planets and galaxies. The films were fascinating and, best of all, they were the work of Swinburne’s staff and students.

I hope to have more exciting IT news to report on at a later date. Then again, I may just go back to university and make 3D movies about alien intelligence.

Mr Ziad Baroudi, Head of Information Communications Technology

Test driving games

Avila students were treated to a lunchtime talk by Nina Nikolic of Swing Interactive on June 26. Nina is the project manager of Whisperous, a game being developed by a group of students from QANTM College, an institution that offers an undergraduate degree in computer gaming.

Nina spoke with passion about creative careers and the need for more women in technology. She went on to show digital images representing games characters, from initial sketches to the final versions.

Accompanying Nina were Aaron and Anthony, the Quality Assurance guys on the Whisperous team. They invited students to test drive Whisperous. You too can test the game and provide some feedback. Just go to www.swinginteractive.com. With a group focused on Games and Manga and the APP Group which is currently building a game for mobile devices, Avila is providing its students with an outlet for creative expression through the exploration of games. Who knows, one day we may create the new Angry Birds. Expect the release of ‘The School Without Bells’!

Mr Ziad Baroudi
Head of Information Communications Technology
The Science Department has been busier than usual this semester with extra activities including Science Week and a visit from Grade 3 and 4 students from Holy Family. To top it off, a record number of students entered an international science competition with some placing in the top one and two per cent.

**Science Week**

To mark the International Year of Chemistry, the theme for Science Week this year was 'React to Chemistry' so, react we did. Lines of students snaked out the laboratory doors as the girls queued at lunchtime to make slime and sherbet. Chemistry students were in their element competing for a Periodic Table shower curtain in the Great Periodic Table Challenge. Science staff prepared a sublime morning tea of edible Periodic Tables and other chemical wonders, while down the corridors the sounds of Daniel Radcliffe singing Tom Lehrer’s element song or Mr Bean blowing up a lab provided the catalyst for much discussion.

**Holy Family visit**

Three classes of primary students visited Avila Science laboratories recently as part of an inquiry unit. During the visit, the students participated in a range of activities carefully prepared by Mrs Thom and Mrs Jayakody. Great excitement was evident and we were impressed, but not surprised, by their listening skills and careful manipulation of the equipment.

**Top international ranking**

Interest in the ICAS Science Competition has continued to rise with 120 Avila students participating this year and some students being placed in the top one to three percent worldwide.

The competition is an international initiative run by Educational Assessment Australia of the University of NSW.

Congratulations to all students who participated and, in particular, the following award winners:

**Year 7 - Distinction:** Lisa Dupuy and Jessica McLean (top 2%), Hyun Park, Deshi Karunarathne, Shantelle Patturajan.

**Credit:** Swathi Anand, Isabelle Benedos, Georgia D’Souza, Freda Drakopolous, Areetha Peethamparam, Nuwangee Perera, Anelise Porto, Isha Shah, Katerina Sova, Cassandra Tam, Audrey Thoman, Genevieve Wertherill.

**Year 8 - Distinction:** Sanduni De Mel, Sophia Elliott, Simone Louey.

**Credit:** Sarah Gill, Bridget McKenzie-McHarg, Oshini Wijenayake

**Year 9 - High Distinction:** Monica De Rango (top 1%). **Distinction:** Shalini Harasgama. Credit: Audrey Chew, Yasna Cook, Leah Giakoumis, Christina Ishak, Cara Marino, Grace Rodrigues, Catherine Smith, Carla Timi, Sharon Wong.

**Year 10 - Distinction:** Emma Chan (top 3%)

**Year 11 - Distinction:** Li-Chun Chen, Katrina Liston. **Credit:** Courtney Ager, Stephanie Barcham, Laura De Rango, Nishanthi Duggan, Kiara Goldsmith, Miranda Nguyen.

**Year 12 - Credit:** Lauren Pecora

This year we presented achievement awards to Year 12 students Sally Redman and Dannielle Costello in recognition of their continued participation in the competition over the years. **Dr Sue Liston, Head of Science**
If you had visited Avila at lunch time on August 9, you would have been greeted by historical people on icy pole sticks prancing around the grounds, sizzling sausages, fairy floss, stickers, and stalls of all shapes and sizes promoting College activities and the work of the student leaders.

And despite the threat of rain the atmosphere was pumping with the tunes of ‘Djemis’ (Mr Emilio Bernardo) as he had the outdoor dance floor grooving.

All the activity was for the 2011 SRC Expo. In addition to promoting what various interest groups had to offer, the SRC also gathered ideas from students as to how to make the College an even better place. The results of the survey are currently being collated and investigated.

Despite the threat of rain, the lunchtime expo was a great success. Thank you to all the students and teachers who participated in the expo, and for everyone else for supporting the event.

Carlie Saunders, Avila SRC

A group of 69 enthusiastic Biology Unit 4 students attended a workshop at Melbourne University’s second year genetics laboratories on August 15, accompanied by their three very experienced teachers.

The purpose of the much-anticipated excursion was to complete practical work on biotechnology and on genetic crosses.

In one practical session we focused on the biochemical technique of gel electrophoresis, and used it to separate some samples of DNA. In the other we observed and identified genetic variation in the vinegar fly (or as a biologist would lovingly refer it—Drosophila melanogaster!).

This invaluable experience provided us all with the opportunity to spend a day in a biologist’s shoes (or should I say genes’), and enabled us to grasp the concepts we had read about in class, in a hands-on environment. The excursion was thoroughly enjoyed by all and greatly assisted our understanding and preparation for the looming end-of-year Unit 4 examination.

Jessica Woods, 11 Green

Biotechnologists for a day

SRC Expo a huge hit
In the last week of Term Two, 26 students and three staff journeyed to Canberra to explore the nation’s capital. Twenty-one Year 10 girls had completed the Civics unit Australians All while the five Year 11’s studied Politics.

Our first day began at the National Capital Planning Exhibition overlooking Lake Burley Griffin where we explored the reasons behind the choice of Canberra as Australia’s capital city. We then moved across the lake to the High Court, visiting two of the three courts that sit to resolve disputes involving the Commonwealth Constitution and to act as Australia’s final court of appeal. Next on the itinerary was The National Art Gallery where the students viewed and discussed several art works painted around the time of federation.

The evening was relaxed with a visit to a nearby cinema for a screening of the latest in the Pirates of the Caribbean series.

Day Two saw the group head to the War Memorial where we paid our respects to those men and women killed in various wars and conflicts. The Year 11 Politics group went to the National Press Club for lunch and to listen to guest speaker and Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Bob Brown. As well as meeting Senator Brown, the group also had a photo opportunity with Adam Bandt, Greens member of the House of Representatives.

After lunch we toured Old Parliament House and participated in a role-playing exercise focusing on the 1975 dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. We later enjoyed a tour of the Institute of Sport with 204 cm volleyballer Luke as our guide.

On our final morning, we returned to Old Parliament House where Australia’s electoral processes were explored and the students ran a mock election. Parliament House was the focus of the afternoon where we visited both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The students were also addressed by two of Tony Abbott’s research assistants. From Parliament House, we drove to the top of Mount Ainslie to view the early evening city lights before heading to Canberra Airport for our flight back to Melbourne.

It was a busy week and the group enjoyed learning a bit more about the important civic institutions visited.

Mr Philip Cornell
History teacher

Pictured clockwise from top: Outside Parliament House; setting the pace at the Australian Sports Institute; the High Court; face-to-face with Senator Bob Brown and Adam Bandt at the National Press Club.
C O U N T M E I N was the theme of our very successful 2011 Music Festival.

Everyone performed extremely well, providing a wonderful night of entertainment for the captivated audience. The students were divided into their instrumental sections and the night was off to a great start, beginning with the orchestra with more than 100 participating members. The evening included multiple performances by the concert band and many ensembles, as well as additional performers from every year level. The standard was amazing and all this added up to a very memorable, successful night. In the weeks leading up to the night there were many rehearsals and a continuous countdown to this magnificent event, but it was all worth it as the odds were that the night would be great!

Roshali Lokuge, Year 8 Music Captain and Alysha van Eyk, Year 11 Music Captain.
Bye Bye Birdie, the 2011 Avila Mazenod musical, was everything we had hoped for and more ...

Auditions were held at the end of Term One and the next thing we knew the cast lists were up with approximately 30 lucky girls from years 10, 11 and 12 making the cut. As rehearsals kicked in to gear Have you heard about Hugo and Kim? was not the only rumour buzzing around as the lead roles were announced and the hard work really began. Many weeks later, our countless hours of rehearsals were rewarded when the show opened.

The musical is based in America in the 50's/60's (a mystical time when telephones had cords; pants were worn a foot above the waist, not below; and when America was financially stable) when popstar and teenage heart throb, Conrad Birdie, is drafted into the army. The plan is to launch a new song, One Last Kiss, where Conrad has to kiss one of the girls from his fan club goodbye. However, a jealous boyfriend, stubborn parents and an almost-mother-in-law lead to a hectic and humorous performance.

As we were taught to Put On A Happy Face, how to be Honestly Sincere and that we had A Lot Of Livin 'To Do we were also able to brush up on our American history, which we quickly discovered was not one of our strong points. We were introduced to Ed Sullivan and became quite patriotic for A Healthy, Normal American Boy as we all portrayed screaming teenagers and old fashioned parents. As opening night drew closer we were worried that everything really wouldn’t be Rosie, despite the poodle skirts and cool hairdos. Yet the show could not fail to impress with our brilliant band, stage crew and star-studded cast which included students from both schools and all year levels. From Mazenod we had Chris Chew as Albert Peterson, Rhys De Wilde as Conrad Birdie and Andrew Sorbello as Mr MacAfee. From Avila we had Sarah Bradwell as the sassy and witty Rosie, Margaret Tanjutco made a stellar debut performance as the hilarious Mae Peterson and Katrina Liston as the stunning Mrs MacAfee. I was Kim MacAfee alongside my ‘steady’ Hugo F. Peabody performed by Zane Talbot. Other leads included Lauren Trantino and Mitchell Sutherland. The cast was unbelievable, the amount of hidden talent was incredible, and the friendships formed are certainly unbreakable.

A massive thank you to all of those who helped the MatCo. musical become the spectacle which it was. A special mention to all of the amazing people from Mazenod. Mr Ken Nailon (director), Mr Doug Leutchford (conductor) Miss Claire Patti (singing) and Mrs Kaye Williamson (costumes), as well as past Avila student Laura Evans who was our choreographer. Without their help, we would never have been able to produce a show of such a high standard.

The Mazenod/Avila Musical was not a place for us to find One Boy, but instead was a way for us to put our talents on display for the wider community and proclaim How Lovely To Be A Woman at Avila where we are provided with such mind-blowing opportunities. In the final performances we proved that an English Teacher is cooler than a pop star manager, that a ‘steady’ really is forever and that we all had a fiery Spanish Rose hidden inside.

Carly Watson, 11 Silver
Photographs courtesy Mazenod College
Former Director of Music at Avila, Mrs Mary Saunders, returned to the College recently to conduct a master class for students preparing for their VCE Music Performance examinations.

Mrs Saunders provided the Year 11s and 12s with some very helpful tips and tricks for performance and also instructed on how to prepare properly for the upcoming Music exam that anxiously awaits the year 12s.

The class greatly appreciated Mrs Saunders’ insight into our performances and we hope we can apply to our music what she has taught us.

Mrs Mary Saunders was Director of Music at Avila College from 1987 until 2001. Since her ‘retirement’ from Avila, Mrs Saunders has been very active as an educationalist and as a performer.

Mrs Saunders was asked to join the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority where she worked on the VELS, VCE curriculum in all Arts areas, in particular Music. She also marked AIM and VCE exams together with vetting VCE music exams.

Mrs Saunders currently undertakes an occasional project on resources or group performance lists.

Following her retirement from Avila Mrs Saunders also continued to work with the Avila string quartet which performed at many private and corporate functions throughout Melbourne. In addition she was invited to form a women’s choir at Holy Family, Mount Waverley, with the initial gig to be to present a 100-voice choir of women for Mother’s Day. The choir was such a success that it continued for five years performing at many events around Melbourne, from Jells Park for Mothers’ Day to the Biggest Morning Teas, to Christmas to other charity events as well as for religious services.

Tamara De Lutiis

Kaleidoscope of art activities

Joint Excursion

On August 23 and 25, the Year 8s visited the city of Melbourne for a day of art and culture. The English and Art Departments accompanied the students to both the National Gallery Victoria at Federation Square to see the Australian collection and to the NGV St Kilda Road to visit the International collection.

We were given time to explore the artworks and find inspiration to further research and respond to in our Art and English classes. At lunchtime we sat in Birrarung Marr and sketched the skyline, view of the Yarra River and other interesting features or artworks. A highlight of the day was visiting more unusual art spaces such as the graffiti and street art in Hosier Lane and, ‘The Angel’, a large public sculpture by Deborah Halpern. It was a fantastic day of learning, discovery and fun.

Jackie Chittasorn, Year 8 Art Captain

Art Club

During Wednesday lunchtimes in terms two and three, a group of Year 7 students have come together at Art Club to work on different pieces of art. The Art captains are helping the Year 7s to produce two celebrity pop art portraits. These art works will be displayed in the new years 7 and 8 building. The portraits are almost completed and are looking fantastic!

Art captains - Isha Shah, Year 7, and Nikki Pecora, Year 9
Students studying Indonesian at Avila, together with the wider College community have been enriched by the visit of two young women from Indonesia.

Aliyyah Rusdinar and Naila Kautsari were hosted by Drashti Thakkar and Bethany Coffey and their families during the six-week exchange. The following comments from the girls capture the benefits of the experience:

Aliyyah Rusdinar: Being in Australia and attending Avila College has been one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I learned so many things and enjoyed so many experiences. I really enjoyed all the subjects at Avila. My favourite was History, particularly the gold rush era in Australia. Other subjects such as English, Indonesian, Math, Science, PE, RE, were fun and enjoyable too! The students and teachers were all so welcoming. I am truly honored to have had this opportunity. I would like to thank all of Avila and I hope we can stay in touch.

Drashti Thakkar: Hosting Aliyyah was a wonderful experience for me because it fulfilled my extreme desire to have a sister. The program has enhanced my knowledge of Indonesian traditions, culture, religion and most of all, the language, Bahasa Indonesia. We had a great time together and enjoyed many adventures. I am sure Aliyyah will be greatly missed, not just by me, but also by many of her other Avila friends.

Bethany Coffey: In the six weeks that Naila stayed at our house, we learned a lot about Indonesian culture. She preformed traditional Javanese dancing, introduced us to different food and helped with my language skills. We visited many places including Healesville, the Surf Coast, the Otways and the city. It was a great experience, and I would recommend being part of the program to anyone who would like to learn more about the cultures of the world or would like to improve their language skills.

(Pengalaman bermanfaat Indonesian for ‘worthwhile experience’)

Face-to-face with popular authors

Meeting the authors of some of the books they had read was a real treat for a group of 36 years 7 to 9 students who enjoyed an excursion to the 2011 Melbourne Writers Festival.

The day’s program included sessions with American author Maggie Stiefvater who wrote Shiver, Linger and Forever, and the hilarious Oliver Phommavanh (pictured above with Eboni Bugeja, 7 Red) who wrote Thai-rific and Con-nerd. The older students went to a session called ‘Bringing history to life’ in which a panel of authors spoke about how they researched before writing their books. Jane Caro who is a lecturer, broadcaster and a novelist also presented a session about her book, Just a Girl which is about the life of Queen Elizabeth I and what it was like for her growing up as Henry VIII’s daughter. The day finished with a Poetry Slam where many experienced poets and some school students performed their work onstage.

Novel potential of the everyday

A group of students from years 8 and 9 celebrated Book Week with a visit to the Mount Waverley Library to hear author Simmone Howell, talk about her books for young adults.

Using a slide-show, Simmone spoke about her strong interest in popular culture and how the music, fashion and events of her teenage years have influenced her writing. She advised any budding young writers in the group that they don’t have to look far for material to use in their creative writing - everything that’s going on around them, right now, can be used. She strongly suggested keeping a diary, a collection of pictures - they might come in handy some day. Simmone is the author of Everything beautiful - a love story and Notes from the teenage underground.
Two years ago I wrote an article for Avila Matters on the Bradley Review. The report which was presented to the government came up with 46 recommendations, many of which have significant implications for our students. The resultant shake-up of the tertiary sector represents the biggest change in a generation. Given that many of the recommendations are to be implemented as of 2012 it is timely to revisit this.

The government has set a target of 40% of 25 to 34 year olds to have achieved a bachelor degree or higher by 2020. At the time the research was done the figure was 29%. So this is a big change – expanding participation in university education. It will have significant effects on things like the method of selection as universities seek ways to find appropriate students. Already 50% of the courses in VTAC have additional requirements to the ATAR in student selection, including folios, separate entrance tests and special application forms where students state their reasons for wanting to pursue a particular course. This is likely to increase further.

A huge change is the recommendation that students be able to decide for themselves what and where they will study through an entitlement. Effectively this means the removal of capped numbers to courses although universities are not going to have the resources to open up the floodgates. Much more likely is the further development of niche markets with the likely result that it will matter more in the future where you did your degree and what kind of experiences were offered in the program.

We have already seen some major changes in the restructuring of training for the professions. What came to be known as the Melbourne model has been adapted by many other universities so that in many cases a first degree is required before a student undertakes postgraduate training for a specific profession. This trend is likely to increase. For example it is no longer possible in Victoria to train as a veterinary surgeon straight from Year 12 – a science degree needs to be taken first.

At Avila we are well aware of these trends and you can be assured that students are being counselled appropriately. In many ways these are exciting times and students have a tremendous range of possibilities and pathways to consider.

Mr David Bruce
Careers Co-ordinator

Wise tops to keep mind at university

Former Chaplain at Avila College, Ms Di Brebner returned to the College recently to provide Year 12s with some tips that they might find useful at university.

Ms Brebner, who was Chaplain and Head of Student Services at the Australian Catholic University for 10 years before her time at Avila College, shared the following pearls of wisdom:

- be independent and responsible for your own learning
- be proactive in looking after yourself
- seek out help when you need it or don’t understand something; go to people such as Course Advisors, Student Services advisors, Chaplains,
- become involved in extra curricular activities as a diversion from study and to make friends with like-minded people. - be intelligent and selective about who you make friends with
- ensure a good balance between study, part-time work and leisure activities. Often university students work too many hours to the detriment of their studies.
- give back to the community. Draw on what you have learned at Avila and take those skills into the community through some form of community service or volunteer work. This also adds to your CV when applying for work; employers like to see that you are proactive in society
- look after your heart and soul as well as your studies
- dream big and work hard to achieve it!

What’s happening in tertiary education?

Two years ago I wrote an article for Avila Matters on the Bradley Review. The report which was presented to the government came up with 46 recommendations, many of which have significant implications for our students. The resultant shake-up of the tertiary sector represents the biggest change in a generation. Given that many of the recommendations are to be implemented as of 2012 it is timely to revisit this.

The government has set a target of 40% of 25 to 34 year olds to have achieved a bachelor degree or higher by 2020. At the time the research was done the figure was 29%. So this is a big change – expanding participation in university education. It will have significant effects on things like the method of selection as universities seek ways to find appropriate students. Already 50% of the courses in VTAC have additional requirements to the ATAR in student selection, including folios, separate entrance tests and special application forms where students state their reasons for wanting to pursue a particular course. This is likely to increase further.

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Self confessed ‘naughty girl with no interest in school’, Allison Dore, has found her niche in the animal welfare arena.

From helping out as an animal handler at Wildlife Wonderland at Phillip Island, to working as a volunteer at an Elephant Nature Park in Thailand and assisting with other projects, to securing a position with the Greenpeace organisation in Sydney, Allison is on a definite mission. Her dream is to be crew on Greenpeace’s Sea Shepherd to help prevent the unnecessary slaughter of whales and dolphins.

A Class of 2006 graduate, Allison, said she had no interest in school. ‘I was “lost” at school and had no idea about what I wanted to do … I was a bit naughty, a bit of trouble,’ said Allison who shared her experiences with Year 12s at a recent year-level pastoral.

After Year 12, Allison completed a beauty therapy course and it was while she was working in the industry that she volunteered one day a week at Wildlife Wonderland at Phillip Island. She enjoyed the work so much, and the types of like-minded people it attracted, that she set her sights on a career switch. To that end, she and her mother, Alannah, spent two weeks earlier this year, as volunteers at the elephant park in Chiang Mai. Not only did they help look after the elephants, they also planted trees and taught English at the local school as a thank you to the villagers for providing fruit and vegetable scraps to feed the elephants.

‘It was such an incredible experience,’ Allison said. ‘It was confronting at times, working with the elephants which had been rescued from abusive treatment, but so amazing experiencing another culture, gaining so much knowledge about animal care and conservation and working along side so many inspiring volunteers and like-minded people from all corners of the globe.’

And whilst there is an irony in her beauty therapy qualification, Allison is philosophical about educating people about using products that do not involve any cruelty to animals. Her work financed her trip to Thailand as a volunteer and will help pay the bills until she moves to Sydney to take up her position in administration with Greenpeace in February.

Class of 2010 reunion

It is less than a year since school uniform, classrooms and school books have been replaced by university studies, gap years and employment for the Year 12 Class of 2010. However, more than 120 members of the cohort enthusiastically gathered at their reunion on September 6 to catch up with each other and staff, rekindle old friendships and generally have an Avila-style good time. It was a delight to mingle among these happy young women, full of optimism and enthusiasm for their futures. It was rewarding to hear their praises of Avila and the exceptional education they have received which has facilitated the realisation of the next step towards achieving their ambitions.

Thankyou to the Food Technology students for preparing the wonderful finger food for the evening.

Mrs Louise Swift, Year 12 Co-ordinator
This year, students from all year levels who have an interest in video games, anime or manga formed the Avila G.A.M.E (Game, Anime and Manga Enthusiasts) Club. We meet every Friday lunchtime to discuss various topics and ideas relating to video games, anime (Japanese cartoons) or manga (Japanese comics) and the kinds of events the club would like to organise.

Our first major event was an anime screening after school on August 30. Most of the members came along and some also brought along like-minded friends. A Year 9 classroom was set up as a beanbag cinema so, instead of chairs we had, you guessed it, beanbags. We watched *Ponyo*, a movie about a goldfish, Ponyo, and a little boy named Sosuke and their journey to help Ponyo to become a human. We snacked on popcorn and pizza, all six boxes! To top off a brilliant session, ice creams were handed out. So delicious!

The screening was a great success thanks to the Year 12 leaders and Deputy Principal (Wellbeing), Mrs Christine Kralj and those who attended. More events like this are sure to follow.

Sarah Bridges, Year 11
After months of waiting, the day finally came ... the Year 10 Hotham ski trip!

An early start on day one didn’t faze us as we were all so eager to hit the slopes, particularly in such brilliant ‘bluebird’ conditions. Our ski instructors soon had us sliding down small slopes and learning to turn. It was tricky for some of us to find our balance at first, but after falling, and surviving, our confidence grew. As the day progressed we all learned through trial and error, and with plenty of thrills and spills. Day two was another early start and our instructor showed us how to control our speed and turning techniques. We had the opportunity to extend ourselves in the afternoon, with some heading to the ‘Big D’ and others having a go at harder blue runs. With huge smiles on our faces, we boarded the bus for our trip home... and there wasn’t a girl on the bus that was not planning her next trip to the snow! Katherine Napoli

Pictured from L-R, Bridget Jackson and Annabel Robson; Madison Olds, Rose Kealy and Emily Asker; and Lauren Romano and Stephanie Richter.
Avila powers through with great team work

Cross Country
Avila’s 18 cross country running representatives were well prepared when they journeyed to Albert Park on June 23, after weeks of chilly, early morning training sessions, kindly run by Mrs Cathy Bolduan and Mrs Leanne Bowen. Despite the ominous clouds and puddles, Erin Flatters ran a consistent and remarkable race for the juniors, placing eighth. Ally Forrest then starred in the intermediate run, finishing sixth, followed by Rhiannon Pearce also putting in an impressive performance. Sally Redman led home Avila’s seniors. Overall, Avila came 7th out of 12 in Division 2 and celebrated with a well-earned Macca’s run on the way back to school.

Hockey
On Tuesday July 28, Avila’s two hockey teams boarded the bus ready for a smashing day at Footscray Hockey Club.

Both the Junior and Senior teams played four other schools in a round robin day of competitions. In true Avila style the girls were full of spirit and determination with many being first-time hockey players.

The day ended well with the Senior team just missing out on finals and coming third while the Juniors were runners up. A big thank you to all who made the day such a success.

Soccer
Avila showed its unquestionable strength in the SCSA Division 1 soccer competition at Darebin International Sports Centre.

The Seniors, coached by Mr Emilio Bernardo, and the Intermediate team, coached by Mrs Trish Williams, both came first. The Juniors, coached by Mr Ziad Baroudi and Bianca Malietzis, came fourth.

Volleyball
On August 2, Avila’s volleyball teams competed in the SCSA Volleyball competition. It was an enjoyable day with many excellent plays and laughs along the way. At the end of the day the Seniors and Intermediates both finished 3rd, narrowly missing out on the grand final. Congratulations to the Juniors who came 1st. Also, a big thank you to Miss Flynn, Mr Kennedy, Miss Wilson and Miss Randle for giving up their time to coach us.

Photographers include Mrs Cathy Bolduan and Kimberly Hilton


Avila has enjoyed a strong performance in two major competitions in recent months - the Waverley International Netball Tournament (WINT), followed by the All School netball championships - with our junior WINT team proving to be a particularly strong force.

In the 2011 WINT during the July school holidays, the juniors finished second in the tough 20- team competition and the seniors were placed a commendable sixth out of 26 teams from interstate and overseas. The new format for the tournament allowed for 10 minute quarters and this made playing up to four games a day very tiring!

The second event on the netball calendar was the All Schools netball championships on July 25. Avila was represented well with three junior, two intermediate and two senior teams. Though the competition was fierce Avila held strong despite the fact that for many teams this was their first time playing together. Avila’s results were very good with our WINT teams gaining first place in their respective sections, so they now progress to the state championships.

Results: Junior A, 5th; Junior B, 10th; Junior C, 7th; Inter WINT, 1st; Senior WINT, 1st; Inter A, 9th; Senior A, 9th.

Congratulations to all the girls who played and showed exceptional sportsmanship in both competitions and to the coaches, Kathy Duncan, Lacey Oakley (WINT) and Mrs Leanne Bowen, Miss Carly Randle, Mrs Jodie Dean, Mr John Ryngehart, and Mrs Donna Bell. Well Done Avila!

Lillian Smith and Rachelle Cahill, Netball captains

Fearless at footy

In wet, muddy conditions, Avila’s football teams enjoyed a big day out at the Mount Waverley Secondary College oval. The Juniors, coached by Mrs Anne Stephens with the help of Miss Nerida King, had a decisive win against Mater Christi. Well done to Tamara Ludekens for her great all-round skills on the ground and her fantastic goal kicking! The intermediates, coached by Ms Karis Dalton, and the seniors, coached by Mrs Anna Cornell, put up valiant fights against Siena who proved too strong on the day.

In the seniors, congratulations to Tia Cooper for the team’s single, fantastic goal, and Alex McLennan for being a great all-rounder on the field. Thank-you to all the coaches and girls who were involved in making the day so fun! GO AVILA! Lisa Lentini, Football Captain

Avila’s senior football team

Avila’s intermediate football team

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Two Avila students are turning heads in aerobics at a national level.

Madeleine Heyn, Year 9, and Sarah Lambourne, Year 8, are members of the Mount Waverley-based Action Replay team which has been runners-up in two national competitions in recent months.

The seven-member team was second in the Junior Fitness section at FISAF (International Federation of Sports, Aerobic & Fitness) Australia in Geelong on July 30 and second in the aerobics section in the Schoolaerobics Nationals in Launceston on August 21.

Talented gymnast Emily Wright secured a silver medal for bars at the Australian gymnastics championships in Perth.

The 14-year-old Year 8 student trains five times a week, but in the lead-up to a major competition she is in the gym up to seven times a week and sometimes twice a day.

Emily, who has been doing gymnastics for about 10 years, is keen to continue competing in the national stream with her club, Waverley Gymnastics Centre.

She said she loved gymnastics because it was ‘fun being with friends and learning new skills’.

Victorian champion - Brittany Davison

Meanwhile Year 8 student, Brittany Davison, has secured a hat trick at state-level gymnastics.

Brittany, 13, is the 2011 Victorian champion in national level 7. She was the Level 6 champion in 2010 and Level 5 champion in 2009. Brittany has her sights set on working her way up to national level 10.

Brittany, a member of the Waverley Gymnastics Centre, started gymnastics when she was in prep and said she loves the physical and mental challenge.

Her next major competition will be the national clubs championships in Canberra in November.

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Darwin bound, opposing teams

The Year 7 area is an interesting place to be with two Year 7s heading to Darwin to compete against each other in the national under 14 basketball championships during the Term Three break. One of the students, Jessica Harley, has been named captain of her side.

Jessica, will be frontline up with the Melbourne Tigers while Mikala Viney, 7 Blue, will be playing for the Dandenong Rangers. Their teams qualified for nationals after being ranked in the top four in the Victorian Junior Basketball League.

Jessica and Mikala, who have both been playing basketball since they were about 7, said that whilst they did not know each other before they started at Avila they recognised each other from basketball.

At a domestic level, Jessica, who also made the Victorian Under 12 side in 2010, plays with the Timber Wolves at the Waverley Stadium. Mikala plays with EH (Endeavour Hils) Panthers at Dandenong. Both girls hope to play college basketball in America.

Hockey talent, Belinda Mason has been selected into the Under 15 Victorian State team to play in the nationals in Sydney during the Term Three break. Belinda, 15, said she loves the challenge of the sport, the opportunities and the people she meets. She is currently training/playing six days a week.

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