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

Young Vinnies ‘Trolley Dollars’ campaign
Term of major highlights

Our New Building – we have occupancy!!

There was much excitement, expressions of joy and some sense of relief when years 7 and 8 staff and students were finally able to move into the new building (see photographs below) at the start of Term Two.

Much work had been done over the Term One holidays to ensure that all teaching spaces, office areas, lockers and open spaces were fully fitted out with new tables, chairs and ottomans all ready for use. It was a rather historic moment in the 47-year life of the College as this was the first time a separate stand-alone building of this size (which includes a lift) had been built.

Having such state-of-the-art facilities which includes sensor lighting throughout, total climate control, including temperature monitoring in all learning spaces and offices, full-block-out blinds, write-on glass writing boards as well as interactive white boards in classrooms and a 100 000 litre water tank that collects rain water from the roof to provide grey water to flush all the toilets – means we have a building that will serve us well into the future and considers key elements of sustainable buildings and flexible learning spaces.

Master Building Plans

As we consider options for future building developments, we have been completing some small renovation works within (what we referred to as) the unoccupied old junior school building. We have removed some brick walls and now created another open space that provides for flexibility in learning areas. The area can be left as one big open space, (four original classrooms and corridor space) or by moving the operable walls - two long open classrooms can be created. This space will provide learning areas for drama, physical education as well as a space to be used for whole year level gatherings or other groups.

The start of Term Three will also see the careers staff move into one of the unused classrooms in this same building. A newly refurbished area, to be known as the Careers Hub, will provide valuable space for students to visit and research career options or speak with one of our careers advisors.

There will also be a dedicated prayer room for classes and individuals to spend some reflective time or classes to use throughout the day as a space to pray and gather.

Creative Arts Festival

A new format, a new venue, a new creative arts team – this new creation resulted in a most wonderful, entertaining ‘Wonderland’ evening.

With so many students, staff and parents involved, the 2012 Creative Arts Festival, held at the Besen Centre, was a true reflection of how working together in a collaborative manner can result in such a wonderfully spectacular and entertaining event.

As you will see from some of the photos in this edition of Avila Matters – the performances of our young Avila women, whether as musicians, singers, dancers, performers, stage crew members or audio visual and technical assistants – truly is something to be proud of.

Congratulations to all involved.

Ms Louise Gunther
Principal

Avila Matters cover - Young Vinnies launch ‘Trolley Dollars’

Avila’s Young Vinnies group launched a ‘Trolley Dollars’ campaign on June 6 to raise money for the purchase of trolleys of food for needy families during the particularly challenging winter months. Rattling their tins for St Vinnies are from L-R, Young Vinnies president Chimangu Kamanga, vice president Elaine Pacheco, and secretary Heshaya Gunsekere. See page 6 for a report of the launch.
Avila Matters Term 2, 2012 - 3

Raising bar even more

As Semester Two draws to a close, Avila College has much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to, with an impressive list of achievements that reflect the depth and breadth of opportunities for available to students.

Some of the highlights included:

- In Geography, 55 students undertook the National Geography competition. Kiara Goldsmith and Sarah Bridges, Year 12, gained distinctions. Credits were awarded to Karlee Hill and Hannah Renehan, Year 12; Angela Stapleton, Sarah Gill, and Bridget McKenzie-McHarg, Year 9; and Stacey (Hyun) Park, Year 8.
- In Public Speaking and Debating, Katie Elliott, Year 9, progressed to State level in the Rostrum Public Speaking Competition while Olivia Condina-Hibon reached the semi-finals in the DAV competition. See page 9.
- In gymnastics, Year 9s Brittany Davison, Brigette Snell and Emily Wright (reserve) represented Victoria in the National Gymnastics Championships in Sydney. Despite their amazing efforts, the team missed out on a placing in the top three.
- In water polo, Rebecca Andrews, Year 10, played number one goalie with the Victorian Under 18 side at the nationals in Canberra.
- In soccer, Sarah Papadimitriou was appointed captain to lead the Victorian Under 13 Metro State team for the second year running at the 2012 Football Federation Australia National Junior Championships in Canberra. Sarah was also selected into FFA’s All Star team drawn from the championships.

Some of the students who performed exceptionally well in the Geography from L-R, Stacey (Hyun) Park, Sarah Gill, Angela Stapleton, and Bridget McKenzie-McHarg.

Career coup

Avila teacher, Margaret Kelleher, achieved a career milestone on May 3 when she was conferred with her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) post graduate degree.

An English and RE teacher at Avila, Dr Kelleher was joined by family and friends, including some of her work colleagues, for the special occasion at Wilson Hall at the University of Melbourne.

Entitled, ‘From Biblical Story to Biblical Interpretation – A Critical Transition’, Dr Kelleher’s doctorate thesis explores the transition to a critical engagement with scripture appropriate to the secondary school student's developing cognitive capacities. It draws on contemporary biblical scholarship and structural development theory. The focus on religious metaphor and literary genre makes the study relevant to a wide range of Christian education settings.

At 462 pages/103,802 words, the research has been quite a commitment over several years. In 2010, Dr Kelleher took extended leave to complete the thesis which she undertook her studies through the MCD University of Divinity, Australia’s first ‘university of specialisation’, which is affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

While Dr Kelleher feels a great sense of satisfaction, she said the challenge now is to apply the findings so the Scriptures become more meaningful to students.

State gymnasts from L-R, Brigitte Snell, Emily Wright and Brittany Davison.

Some of the students who performed exceptionally well in the Geography from L-R, Stacey (Hyun) Park, Sarah Gill, Angela Stapleton, and Bridget McKenzie-McHarg.

Congratulations to Year 7 leaders

After much careful consideration, our Year 7s went to the polls towards the end of Term Two to elect their leaders for 2012.

Congratulations to the following Year 7 leaders pictured, standing from back L-R, Zoe Evans (Music), Eliza Giuliano (SRC), Brittany Moore (Public Speaking and Debating), Cara Fischer (Mackillop), Lucia Hanna (SRC), and Grace Ang (SRC), Front L-R, Carley Do (Art), De’Arne Cvetkovic (Drama), Claudia Hanna (Chisholm), Ellie McCloud (Nagle), and Sarah Fry (Flynn).
Faith Development

A Year of Grace

From Pentecost Sunday 2012 until Pentecost Sunday 2013, the Church in Australia is celebrating a Year of Grace.

It is a time for us to stop, listen and reflect upon our lives as Christians in the context of the broader community: where is the face of Jesus in my daily living?

For those of us in the community of Avila College the question remains the same, but in a more specific context. If Grace is God-given, made possible only by Jesus Christ and none other, then how do we do it in this place? How do we make it manifest in our classroom, our friendship group, our year level, our staff and our homes? The myriad of activities, both spiritual and otherwise, that our students participated in throughout the first Semester of 2012 just may provide some of the answers. Of course the premise is that we, every individual person at Avila College, is ‘the face of Jesus’ in this place. By our love and concern, support for each other, looking outwards toward the other and not inward only on the self, through our giving and sharing and through our openness to receiving as well as to giving, we see the face of Jesus – one for the other. However, the concept remains a concept if not put into practice. Recently it has been my personal experience at Avila College to see the face of Jesus in many people as they supported and cared for my family and myself. These are the real Grace-filled moments.

There is a challenge in all of this. When we are tired, cranky, a little down or distracted, we are challenged to continue to be the face of Jesus. The greater challenge in these times is to be able to have the good grace to let others help us, to pick us up and to be the face of Jesus to us. The staff, students and parents of the Avila community do this, willingly and happily. As we continue to do this for each other we deepen our relationships with each other and with our God who continually sends us, through Jesus, His Grace and Love.

As you peruse the photographs on these pages you will note that the giving and receiving you see here is done with great joy and with tremendous generosity. You will also notice that, regardless of the activity, it is done in collaboration – staff and students – working wonderfully well together to ensure the best outcome. The Avila Community is full of Grace and, please God, will continue to be through its prayer life, teaching and learning, extra curricular program and through its basic tenet: ‘I have come that you may have life and have it to the full’. Therefore, I invite you to join me in praying daily the prayer (see above) as the days, weeks and months of the Year Of Grace unfold.

Reaching out, digging

There was great excitement on Wednesday June 6 as the Young Vinnies launched the Winter Campaign ‘Trolley Dollars’.

The Young Vinnies is a group of Year 11 and 12 students who are working under the auspices of the local St Vincent De Paul Conference at Holy Family Parish to support projects in the local community. ‘Trolley Dollars’ is a campaign to raise money so that St Vincent De Paul members can purchases trolleys of food to assist families in need in the local area.

At the launch, the student community was addressed by Principal Ms Louise Gunther who enthusiastically supported the girls’ initiative. Special guest, Ms Teresa Wilson, Board member of the Victorian Branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society, spoke of her own experience as a student working with Young Vinnies and the lifelong interest she developed. Ms Wilson is the wife of our Faith Development Co-ordinator, Mr John Rhynehart.

Look our for more Young Vinnies’ activities happening at each year level to raise money.
Kicking goals for Reconciliation

Reconciliation Week activities and The Long Walk were among the highlights of the term for the Reconciliation Group and wider Avila community.

Reconciliation Week snapshots:

- Avila has been developing the theme of ‘Recognition’ by using posters to focus the attention of students on Eddie Koiki Mabo in this the 20th anniversary year of the High Court decision that established Native Title.
- Year 9s from each of the homerooms attended a memorial service at the Shrine of Remembrance for the Indigenous service men and women who fought for Australia.
- The Rec Group also released a collection of ‘Acknowledgements of the Land’ that will be used along with the traditional one we have been using for some time. If anyone would like a copy of this collection they could contact the College. We have already had one Rec Group member who has convinced her parent that her workplace could acknowledge the land at formal gatherings.

The Long Walk

The Long Walk, before the Dreamtime AFL match between Richmond and Essendon, is held every year during the Indigenous round. It is an event that celebrates the Indigenous achievements and culture within the AFL and commemorates Michael Long’s walk from Melbourne to Canberra in 2004 to seek equality amongst all people in Australia.

This year 40 members of the Avila community took part in the activities at Birrarung Marr before setting off for the walk to the MCG on May 19. Activities at Birrarung Marr included performances by groups such as Yung Warriors, market stalls, information stalls and meeting players such as young Gibson Turner, a Richmond rookie from Santa Teresa. It was inspiring to see so many other young people who had gathered to recognise and support Reconciliation.

Before the walk to the MCG, Michael Long encouraged those gathered to ‘please stay the course of the journey with us’. He said that is was good to look around ‘and see the love is still here today’. This made the workshops that we had with Aunty Fay Ball come alive - as we had been preparing for this moment since the beginning of the year.

Walking with Avila’s group to the MCG under the magnificent banner sewn by Year 11 student Kate Riethmuller and featuring signatures collected on our ‘Close the Gap Day’. Our banner drew a lot of great attention and compliments. It was very special to be a part of the group who were on the hallowed turf of the MCG. As Aunty Joy welcomed us to country, the music began and the MCG roared as the crowd showed their support. The atmosphere was incredibly moving.

A thousand thanks to the teachers and students who represented Avila. Oh, and Essendon won.

Aly Rose’Meyer
Reconciliation Group Captain and Avila Firecarrier

deep for the greater good

In Semester One, Avila reached out to the community in many ways including collecting for the annual Red Cross Doorknock Appeal; raising money for cancer research with the Biggest Morning Tea; and our Young Vinnies ‘Trolley Dollars’ campaign (see opposite page). At the time of printing, Year 10s were undertaking their community service placements.

Abut students gave up a Sunday morning to help collect for the Red Cross Doorknock in March. They were exceptionally well received by local residents who commended the girls on their efforts and donated generously with a total of $2557.65 collected.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) staged a Biggest Morning Tea in June and raised $686.60 for the Cancer Council.

The SRC worked tirelessly to gain sponsorship for the raffle prizes. Of special note were the efforts of Year 11 students, Saasha Arsov, Shalyn Mathew and Genevieve Townsend, who secured hundreds of dollars in prizes for our raffle. The College would like to acknowledge the following businesses for their generous support: Boost Juice, Gloria Jeans - Burwood East, Suga – Chadstone, Pancake Parlour – Chadstone, Silk - Mt Waverley, Endota – Knox, Igloo Zoo – Chadstone, Ice Accessories, KFC and Luna Park.

The SRC would also like to thank all the staff, especially those in the Food Technology Department and Mrs Marie Stuart and College chaplain Sr. Maria Lazzaro.
In for the challenge

It has been a busy semester for the highly able students involved in Avila’s Gifted and Talented program. Students from the different year levels have been selected and invited to participate in a number of targeted extension activities outside the classroom, encouraging them to employ critical, analytical and creative thinking. By developing these skills in an extracurricular setting, the students can then apply them in the classroom, enhancing class discussions and bringing a depth of analysis to deep learning in class. As a consequence, the Gifted and Talented program at Avila is beneficial for all students - both those directly and indirectly involved.

One of the first opportunities offered this year was the App Development Group, run by Mr Ziad Baroudi and Mr Steven Francis. Students from years 8 to 12 who have been identified as particularly mathematically-minded and with an aptitude for problem solving, are using a programming platform called Corona SDK to design and develop an app for use on a smart phone. Watch this space for the next Instagram-like success!

There have been several opportunities for the Year 10 cohort recently. For the first time at Avila, a group of 14 students has been selected to compete in ‘The Amazing Spaghetti Machine Contest’ run by The University of Melbourne. Drawing on their expertise in Mathematics and Science, the girls had to design a ‘spaghetti machine’ (a highly complex machine with at least 12 transfers of energy) that will take a still photograph. They were assisted by Mrs Sophie Clapperton and are now awaiting the results.

A group of Year 10 students also attended a ‘Philosophy Study Day’ at Camberwell Boys Grammar. In a series of lectures they were exposed to a range of challenging ideas and concepts, including the possibility of snails experiencing consciousness, whether time travel is physically possible, the philosophy of relationships, and some ideas around resilience and self esteem.

Currently, students are preparing to compete in the inter-school Tournament of Minds competition. The competition is open to students in years 7 through to 10, and girls wishing to extend their thinking have been attending lunchtime workshops to prepare for the spontaneous challenge section of the competition. The teams for the long-term challenges will be selected shortly.

In Year 7 the General Studies team, spearheaded by Mrs Catherine Spurritt, hosted workshops for enthusiastic creative writers. As part of the exercise, the students wrote a chapter for the The Age ‘MS Ultimate Story’ which they have submitted for judging.

More exciting opportunities for our highly able students are on the cards for Term 3. Students looking for extension in the social sciences and English are encouraged to listen out for information about ‘The Salon’ and ‘The Writer’s Lounge’ respectively.

Madelaine Scott-Jones, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

Learning in the field

Avila’s Geography students have had an array of experiences this semester, from completing dune transects to competing in a national competition.

The four Year 8 classes visited Werribee Zoo for their environment studies. At Year 9 the Natural Places students visited three beaches looking at coastal landforms and human management. The Going Places class was thrilled to ride on Puffing Billy while later learning about World Heritage sites. Sherene Hassan enlightened and challenged the Battle For Peace students when talking about being an Islamic woman in contemporary Australia. And, in Living Conditions the class discussed the factors contributing to people’s living conditions through case studies in Melbourne, south east Asia and Ethiopia, and how to evaluate and compare locations.

Fieldwork is an integral part of studying Geography. Observing the ‘real world’ requires ‘real world’ experiences. The Unit 3 class visited Cape Woolamai as part of Outcome 2 and produced thorough and impressive fieldwork reports. The Murray Darling Basin is a mandated study, and what better way to comprehend the characteristics and conflicts that can occur in the region than to visit the region? Over two days the girls followed the route water travels from the weir to the farm. They looked at integrated water management and explored the features, issues and management of the Murray River, the Goulburn River and Broken Creek.

All students have developed a geographical understanding needed to make sense of their own world, an appreciation of the diversity and interdependence of places and their people, and skills that will be useful in their future studies and life.
Avila Matters Term 2, 2012 - 7

Building Bridges

Friendships forged

Building Bridges is what the program is called and that's exactly what we did ...

This year, eight Year 10 students were lucky enough to become part of the program which was about bridging the gap between different faiths. The schools involved were Xavier, Strathcona, Bialik, East Preston Islamic College (EPIC), Carey Grammar and Avila. The aim of the program was to build a strong and sturdy relationship between students of different faiths; a challenge we were willing to accept.

At the start of each session we were introduced to the faith of the host school. We would then play a few ice breaker games followed by dinner. A common rule was not to sit with anyone from the same school which, initially, was a bit difficult, but by the end of the sessions everyone would always be sitting with someone new. We would then split into small, gender based groups with our group leader. The leader would have a list of question we would individually answer. We loved how everyone was so open, talking about their personal experiences, and how everyone would listen. The questions at first were simple and easy to answer but by the final session, each person had a deep and personal response to share with their new friends.

We found we had more in common with each other than we ever thought we would. Common topics included the band One Direction, Justin Bieber and the footy but when it was time to get serious every listened willingly. We weren’t separated by race or faith, none of that mattered. Initially we split into groups for introductions - 'I’m Muslim and I’m not a terrorist’ said by one of the girls from EPIC, highlighting the prejudices surrounding Islamic people. The students from EPIC were some of the nicest people we had ever met. All of us, Christian, Jewish and Muslim wanted to learn as much as we could and this showed when it was time to ask questions. No one seemed to hold back, though the polite manner in which we asked showed respect.

By the end of the experience we knew we would all be friends for life. With social networking we are staying in touch and no matter what we will all have a connection. The ties that we have made during this journey are unbreakable and have provided us with a totally different view of all people. Any stereotypes we had of any of the faiths are gone. We learned that you never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view - until you 'climb into their skin and walk about in it’ - as Atticus would say!

Lia Diamantopoulos and Natalie Tsatas

Holocaust service

Students from Avila and Mazenod joined forces on April 19 for a Holocaust Memorial Service at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral.

Before heading to the service, the group of 20 Year 10 Avila students and the Mazenod boys discussed the Holocaust and its impact on the world.

The Holocaust was driven by Adolph Hitler who believed in the crazy concept of ‘ethnic cleansing’ and the expulsion of all Jews. The Holocaust was the mass murder of Jews under the German Nazi regime from 1941 to 1945. During this time, more than six million European Jews, as well as members of other persecuted groups, were murdered at concentration camps such as Auschwitz, in Poland. It was a devastating and life changing abomination that affected the lives of millions.

The Avila and Mazenod group travelled by bus to St Patrick’s Cathedral to commemorate the lives of those people who died in the Holocaust. More importantly, we attended to insure that NEVER AGAIN will this type of devastating atrocity occur. As a community, we acknowledged this horrifying event and were enlightened by the guest speaker who shared with us his personal account of what it was like being part of the Holocaust. We were overcome with an intense feeling of sorrow and compassion towards the many men, women and children, that were affected by the Holocaust.

I know that all the Avila and Mazenod students who attended walked away with a new found respect and appreciation towards the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

Ellena Hocking, 10 Pink

Forging friendships across the faiths

Honouring those who were victims of the Holocaust atrocities are, from L-R, Connor Van Doorn, Francesca Carl, Holocaust survivor David Prince, Samantha Stathopoulos and Paul Solari.

Lia Diamantopoulos and Natalie Tsatas
Semester One saw Avila’s history classes enhancing their classroom learning with excursions to a variety of locations.

A day at Sovereign Hill on Monday, April 23 provided the Year 9 Gold, Prosperity and Migration History classes vivid insights into life on the goldfields in the 1850s.

We participated in some typical 1850s activities as well as dressed in period clothing. We visited the underground mine, panned for gold, wandered and shopped along the main street and listened to the post master’s wife describe her life as the lady of the house. We learned about the duties of a servant, the life of a lady and some of us helped the cook in the kitchen where we churned cream into butter separating it from the buttermilk.

It was a long day but we all agreed that it was a fantastic, fun and informative one. And we have definitely all extended our knowledge of life on the goldfields. Simone Louey

The ‘Melbourne Story’ and ‘Walkin’ Birrarung

The Who’s Story Is It, Year 8 History Class ventured into the ‘Melbourne Story’ exhibition and delved into our indigenous history with ‘Walkin’ Birrarung’.

The Melbourne Museum exhibition captured the daily life of citizens from different times in our city’s history. In groups, we explored periods of time and studied primary sources and their significance, relating them to the story of women. It was very informative and helped us gain an insight into Melbourne’s story from settlement to the present day.

The ‘Walkin’ Birrarung’ started at Enterprise Park then followed the Yarra River upstream, concluding at Princes Bridge and Federation Square. We were led by Dean Stewart, the Education manager of the Koorie Heritage Trust and a descendent of an Indigenous tribe. We learned that Melbourne was founded in 1835 when two European and two Aboriginal men rowed up the Yarra River, but were blocked by a small waterfall. They gave the river the local Aboriginal name ‘Yarra Yarra’, but later realised they had misunderstood the local Aboriginal inhabitants, the Kulin people, and had incorrectly named the river. The Ancestral Kulin name is Birrarung, the ‘River of Mists’.

We learned about the drastic changes in the landscape and wildlife since white settlement and the sacred cultural significance of what lies underneath the concrete jungle we live in today. Dean told us to just stop and listen, once in a while, to the sounds of the city and appreciate what we see and hear today while imagining the sacred site this land was and always will be. Sophia Elliott

Endeavour Visit

It was all hands on deck when Captain Jack Sparrow’s biggest fans visited the replica of the Endeavour, Captain Cook’s ship that was sailed in 1768, bound for Tahiti to record the transit of Venus. Cook’s secret mission was to search for ‘the unknown southern land’, Australia. Being on the Endeavour gave us a better understanding of what life was like on the ships which was very different to what we see in the movies.

In addition, we visited iconic landmarks such as the elegant Block Arcade, statues of famous explorers of Australia and the Rialto building. It was such a fun day but we had to return back to the present times. Gabriella Macpherson-Caldeira

Hands-on history

It was all happening in Science in Term Two with many special activities to further engage students.

From helping to hand raise calves to awe-inspiring Cosmodome sessions to observing the transit of Venus, students were well and truly captivated.

Pictured above, students have a look behind-the-scenes of the 3D presentation of the solar system in the Cosmodome; while above right, Year 7’s Danielle Marlin, Svetlana Reay and Kara Mumford prepare to catch a glimpse of Venus crossing the face of the sun.
Artistic talents and flair flourish

Creative talents and flair flourished in the Art Department in Semester One with many projects on the go such as Art Club, the Creative Arts Festival, as well as regular classes and the Year 12s working on their folios getting ready for the Grad Show.

Every Tuesday lunchtime, the Art captains have joined with the years 7 and 8 Art clubbers to make paper beads, crazy collages, magazine bowls and ‘scary monster’ felt art. The students have impressed us with their confidence and interest. Art Club continues next term. New students are welcome but we encourage them to commit for the term so they can complete the activities.

For the Creative Arts extravaganza, Mrs Lisa Walsh and her Year 11 students from 2011 worked hard to finish some amazing costumes. The girls performed beautifully in both the prepared and impromptu speeches, and are to be congratulated for their continuing commitment to extra curricular activities in their busy Year 12 Year.

Avila College this term hosted the Debaters’ Association of Victoria Public Speaking Competition. Our Year 7s, Tamara Ryan, Ashleigh Janky, Olivia Condina - Hibon, Dion Andrikopoulos, Helena Elliott represented the College very well with Olivia going through to the semi finals.

Competition gives voice to Avila’s young women

With students competing in three separate competitions, it has been a busy term in Senior Public Speaking.

The first competition was Ainger, held in Richmond by the Richmond Rotary Club. Lia Diamantopolous from Year 10, Sophia Elliott and Roshali Lokuge from Year 9 all spoke on a topic of their choice and are to be commended for excellent performances! The girls competed against students from years 8 to 12 and spoke to a mixed audience including their parents and peers.

Phoebe Tapley and Lourdinia Naidoo are also to be commended for making excellent speeches at the Plain English Speaking Award at Lauriston. The girls performed beautifully in both the prepared and impromptu speeches, and are to be congratulated for their continuing commitment to extra curricular activities in their busy Year 12 Year.

Avila was again a force at the Rostrum public speaking competition at Mount Scopus. Roshali Lokuge, Year 9, Olivia Staffieri and Clarissa Frizziero of Year 10, and Katie Elliott, Year 11 gave up their Sunday to compete. Congratulations to Katie for making it through to the state finals.

Avila Matters Term 2, 2012 - 9
It all culminated on April 20 at the Year 11 Formal where everyone looked stunning in their beautiful dresses and enjoyed a magical evening.

Thank you to the Year 12 VCAL students who put so much time and effort into preparing the event. In the weeks prior, Year 11 VCAL students studied a unit called 'Frock Up' which included activities to prepare us for a formal event. This involved budgeting, working out the best colours for our hair and skin tone and our body type and the most appropriate styles. Although it took many classes of planning and resourcing (eg. money!), it was all worth it in the end. We also covered booking limousines and giving directions, budgeting for beauty services and some event management skills.

The venue was set up beautifully, the food was delicious and everyone had heaps of fun on the dance floor. The night was a memorable evening and many photos were taken which will be treasured for a long time. All our guests behaved like true gentlemen and looked extremely handsome.

Thank you to all the staff who attended and joined in and an especially big thanks to our families. We can’t wait for our year 12 Formal.

Pisila Vaihu, Vanessa Smirneos, Jessica Broccio, Stephany Lucarelli and Nadine Kadi

Pictured above centre: The Year 11 VCAL students with VCAL Co-ordinator, Ms Jenny Dunn, from back left, Jessica Broccio, Pisila Vaihu, and Vanessa Smirneos, and Nadine Kadi, and Stephany Lucarelli.
As we travelled with Alice to ‘Wonderland’ at the 2012 Avila Creative Arts Festival, we experienced the excitement of her journey from the beginning to its end, through music, drama, dance and multimedia.

Held at the Besen Centre on May 21, the night began with the harp ensemble playing *A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky*, accompanied by a duet of singers, and the first sight of Alice. The College orchestra enchanted the audience with its performance of some wonderful pieces such as *What a Wonderful World* and Tchaikovsky’s *Waltz of the Flowers*. The night continued with the collaboration of talent from across the year levels re-telling the different aspects of the *Alice in Wonderland* story.

The various school ensembles were joined on stage by dancers to set each of the scenes. The dancers used their movements to show the intense game of crochet played by the Red Queen and the time when Alice joined the Mad Hatter for some tea at the tea party. But best of all, the night ended with an amazing finale dance which included the whole cast from the evening.

The standard of performance this year was very high, captivating the audience as the evening unfolded. Every scene featured an Alice character, played by a different actor each time, and who was accompanied by other Wonderland characters who were all amazingly costumed to further enhance the magic of the evening. There were many girls involved in this spectacular showcase of talent, and many hours of rehearsing as well, all of which culminated in a night that was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone.

‘Wonderland’ was very much a collaboration between the Music, Art, and Drama departments with invaluable assistance from the back stage crew, other staff and students, and parents. For the first time, senior Design and Technology students were involved in the creation of three of the main costumes as part of their VCE unit 2. In 2001, Year 11 students created the costumes for the more avant garde Alice, the Red Queen and Mad Hatter. Design and Technology students were also involved in the making of other costumes, and so too were staff and parents.

Alysha van Eyk
Music Captain
Taking aim for world title

World-class archer and past student Fiona Guest (nee Larkins, Class of 1979) is about to head to France to represent Australia for the first time in the 2012 World Field Championships.

Fiona, 50, has enjoyed a relatively quick ride to world standard. She initially took up archery about six years ago as an activity to share with her youngest son Dean. While Dean, now 18, decided the sport was not for him, Fiona became hooked.

A member of the Waverley City Archers, Fiona has added ‘many strings’ to her bow as she has progressed through the ranks. With four specialist areas in archery – field, clout, target and indoor - Fiona is currently the National Championships record holder for double clout and was the single clout champion until just recently. She holds a number of Victorian records and also collected gold and silver at the 2011 and 2012 Nationals and at the World Masters in Sydney in 2009.

Fiona finds archery particularly rewarding because she can see her steady improvement as well as push herself even further. And while archery is not an energetic sport, the fitter the competitors are the better their performance.

‘It is a terrific sport for people of all ages and I have also met a lot of great people,’ Fiona added.

Always one to seek out a new challenge and broaden her horizons, Fiona is currently nearing the completion of her Bachelor of Business (Financial Planning) degree course with the hope of working in the broking/financial planning industry. She initially qualified with a Science degree, majoring in applied mathematics, specialising in meteorology with the CSIRO and working as a research assistant at Monash University.

Fiona and her husband John have two sons, Shane, 23, and Dean. Her three sisters also attended Avila - Therese (1980), Majella (1981), and Caroline (1985).

Planning is underway for a 40-year reunion of the Class of 1973 including those who were part of that cohort but who may have left before Year 12.

The reunion is to be in the second half of 2013. Planning has started early to give organisers plenty of time to make contact with as many of the class as possible.

Those interested in attending/helping organise the reunion are asked to contact Cathy Anning (Deveney) catha56@gmail.com/ 0419 350 152 or 03 97002383; or Sue Ball spb1108@gmail.com.

Class of 2011 reunion

An invitation is extended to all members of the Class of 2011 to attend a reunion on Tuesday, August 14 in the College dining room. For further information, please contact Year 12 Co-ordinator, Mrs Louise Swift on 9831 9600.
In her senior years at Avila, chemist Angela Liakatos, was determined to have a career in Science but had no idea that it would take her to Germany on a world-renowned research fellowship, provide the opportunity to become fluent in German and then land a dream job in Melbourne with a pharmaceutical company.

Equally significant for Angela is that her work as a research and development chemist has enabled her to contribute to making a positive difference in the world.

Angela, 34, has worked hard to make her dream a reality, having attained a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University and followed by an Honours degree, a PhD at Griffith University in Queensland and then a postdoctoral fellowship in Germany. An award winning student, she is quick to acknowledge the role Avila has played in her accomplishments.

‘Avila instilled confidence in students ... I left Avila with a strong belief in myself and that I could achieve anything that I was willing to work towards,’ said Angela who graduated from Avila in 1995.

‘My teachers at Avila were supportive and encouraging and always willing to help after hours. I will always remember my Chemistry teacher, Mrs Marianne Young, particularly. She was so supportive and dedicated and taught Chemistry in a way that made it really interesting.’

After Avila, Angela successfully completed a Science degree at Melbourne University majoring in Chemistry and Pharmacology, reflecting her strong leaning towards medicinal chemistry. She then did her Honours degree before moving to Queensland so she could undertake her PhD under the guidance of an academic whose research work she particularly admired.

With a yearning to learn more and broaden her horizons, Angela applied for and was awarded a coveted Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship which allowed her to work on a synthetic cancer vaccine in Germany in 2005/2006. The Humboldt Foundation enables researchers from all over the world to spend time researching in Germany. The Foundation maintains a network of more than 25,000 Humboldtians from all disciplines drawn from more than 130 countries and including 48 Nobel Laureates.

‘The fellowship has been a real career highlight. It enabled me to get international experience in research. Also, as part of the fellowship, I undertook an initial four-month intensive language course in Germany. This was invaluable because it helped me integrate more easily into the German culture. Also, all my learning was in German,’ Angela explained.

Since the beginning of 2007, Angela has been working for IDT Australia Ltd, an Australian owned and listed pharmaceutical company. Much of her work involves the research and development of cancer drugs and antibiotics, leading to their manufacture for use in clinical trials.

Due to the toxic nature of some drugs, particularly cancer drugs, and to protect the pharmaceutical product from contamination, Angela often works in a 'clean room' or containment facility where extra precautions are taken in terms of clothing and breathing apparatus. Angela has to be completely ‘suited up’ from head to toe, complete with face mask and sometimes breathing apparatus.

Angela noted that it was encouraging to see an increasing number of women in the Science field but was concerned that lack of government funding in research in Australia meant fewer people were pursuing PhDs. She believed the real pinch of a Scientific drought would be felt in about 10 years time.

However, whether it be Science or another discipline, Angela encouraged students to pursue their passions because if they were motivated and prepared to work hard, ‘the sky is the limit’.

She urged students to attend university open days and to talk to academics about degree courses of interest and/or organise some volunteer work in the field. Equally important was the need to research future employment opportunities.

‘If you have the drive and determination and are prepared to work hard, you can achieve anything that you want,’ Angela concluded.
Camp was awesome. There was lots to do and so many different people to meet. There were chances to overcome your fears; friendships to be made stronger; and wise words of wisdom from Mrs Benton to ‘leave camp with no regrets!’

Crate climbing was by far my favourite activity. It’s all about being balanced and having good communication with your partner. The aim is to try to stack and climb as many crates as possible. Being up there was a little scary but having to let go of the crates in order to get the next crate was definitely the scariest part.

... We had a beautiful liturgy about how quickly we grow up and need God in our lives. Of all the liturgies I’ve participated in, this was one of the loveliest and most heart-warming I’ve ever experienced.

Eliza Giuliano

EVEN the wintry weather for the Year 7 camp at Phillip Island Adventure Resort in May, could not dampen the enthusiasm and determination of the girls to have a go at all the different activities. The girls extended themselves in many ways with some overcoming their fear of height in the crate building activity; reaching the top of the rock climbing wall; and even attempting the circatron.

Their enthusiasm spilled over into the night-time activities. Dressed in glitzy costumes, they tested their knowledge during the Trivia Night and designed stunning costumes made from newspaper. And while the visit to the penguin parade was cancelled due to the weather, the rangers from the Phillip Island Nature Park visited camp to talk to the girls about how unique and special the penguins are. During a beautiful Liturgy on the final day, the girls had time to reflect on their own unique talents and gifts.

Year 7 camp was a huge success and I would like to thank all the staff for their care and their enthusiasm, particularly our Camp Co-ordinator Miss Marina Kelly.

Lastly, I’d like to congratulate the girls on their energy and their positive attitude. They certainly did ‘GO FOR IT’ and I am proud of them all.

Mrs Tanya Induni
Year 7 Co-ordinator

The drop slide at A Maze ‘n Things was great fun, but letting go has to be one of the hardest things I have ever done. It goes against every instinct, to let go and your brain is screaming not to do it, but it is awesome once you get over the perfectly well founded fears that are, in this case, irrational.

... I made some new friends at Year 7 Camp.

Zoe Evans

As I stepped onto the first platform of the high ropes course and attached my clips onto the rope, my legs began shaking as it was absolutely freezing (I was also a tiny bit petrified). Making my way along the challenging course my hands struggled to grip the rope and I slipped! For those few seconds, I pictured my mum and dad planning my funeral... it sounds ridiculous but it’s true! Fortunately I finished the course in one piece! It felt good having achieved something, and it gave me the confidence to try other activities on camp.

Camp was such an amazing experience where I met so many new friends, tried some new things and made some great memories that will last for a long time!

Ellie McCloud
First semester was a busy one for Avila’s sportswomen with the College fielding strong teams in swimming, athletics and basketball in the SCSA competitions.

Highlights have included Avila placing second in the senior swimming and third overall; sprint queen Nana Owusu-Afriyie blitzing the field at the athletics; and, in basketball, our junior basketballers the undefeated champions with our intermediates finishing in second place.

Swimming
Avila College raced against nine other schools at the annual SCSA swimming competition at MSAC on March 22. Many personal bests were achieved with quite a few students placing and receiving first and second ribbons in their events. Our efforts and early morning training were rewarded with Avila placing second in the seniors, fourth in the intermediates and fifth in the juniors. All our girls swam exceptionally with Avila placing third overall for a fantastic finish to the night.

Thankyou to the parents and teacher who came to support the team. A special thankyou to the coaches Ms Jenny Brown, Miss Carly Randle, Ms Marina Kelly and Ms Meg Gilfedder.

Isabelle Wright and Leah Viney
Athletics Captains

Basketball
SCSA Basketball was a very eventful day at MSAC on May 21. Each player put their best foot forward and performed extremely well throughout the day. The juniors finished the day undefeated and going home winners of the tournament. They played a great team game in the grand final with Molly MacKenzie (pictured above right, inset) being awarded MVP for the game. The intermediates made it to the finals and put up a fight to beat the top team but lost the semi final. The seniors just missed out on making the finals, but directed their energetic Avila spirit to support the younger teams in their finals.

Ilena Gentile
Basketball Captain, and also pictured above shooting
The 2012 House Athletics Carnival on April 19 proved to be a big day out for Flynn who was the overall winner as well as the Reynolds Relay champion.

Final results:
1st place - Flynn, 4,399 points
2nd place - Nagle, 3,270 points
3rd place - Mackillop, 3,072 points
4th place - Chisholm, 2,822 points

Reynolds Relay: Flynn

Individual winners and runners up:
Year 7
1. Claudia Hanna (Chisholm)
2. Grace Cross (Flynn)
Year 8
1. Jessica Harley (Flynn)
2. Janey Hastings (Nagle)
Year 9
1. Simone Louey (Flynn)
2. Brigette Snell (Nagle) and Klaudia Sperac (Mackillop)
Year 10
1. Kate Townsend (Flynn)
2. Ellena Hocking (Flynn)
Year 11
1. Isabelle Wright (Nagle)
2. Bianca Malietzis (Chisholm)
Year 12
1. Ilena Gentile (Flynn)
2. Mikaela Welti (Flynn)