



Friday 15 May, 2009

Issue No. 14

## A Testimony of Christian Education

On the 20th and 21st of April, as we met together as a group of Christian teachers from across Victoria, it caused me to reflect on the significant role Christian Education has played in my own life journey.

I grew up in a little town on the Northwest coast of Tasmania. I was blessed to have Christian parents who taught me about God from the time I was born and I started Sunday School at the age of three. There is no doubt that both my parents and those Sunday School teachers played an important part in helping me begin my spiritual journey and for that, I am indeed thankful.

In 1983, I started school. It was a tiny, pioneering Christian school that had no more than 50 students during my 12 years there. Christian education was still very much in its infancy and knowing now that our school did not receive government funding in those early days, I am extremely grateful for those teachers who did their job of teaching me for the sake of the calling and not for the money.

For the most part, I enjoyed my years at that school. I learnt how to read and write and do arithmetic. I learnt how to make friends, work hard and be a valuable citizen. But couldn't I have learnt that at the state school down the road? Was it worth the money my parents struggled to find, year after year, to put me and my brothers through 12 years of Christian schooling? Absolutely!

There is one passage in the Bible that sums it up beautifully for me. 2 Timothy 2:14-17 (NIV) says, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that every man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

This is what stands out to me. I learnt the Scriptures and their application to life throughout my whole schooling. They were in the curriculum, I had to memorise verses and passages, and my teachers talked and walked them. It wasn't just about reading the words, but it was the day-to-day living out of them that was demonstrated by my teachers and parent helpers, and the living word of God that was being planted into my heart, mind and spirit over the years. Invisible foundations were being laid for the future beyond my schooling and I could probably write a book about how God has spoken to me through His Word and drawn me to Himself through the ups and downs of life. But without the foundations laid as firmly as they were through the partnership of my family, church and school, would I be where I am today? I doubt it.

I guess that is why I am so passionate about partnering with parents of the next generation in teaching and training young people in the ways of God. May the Word of God continue to be alive in our lives so that the next generation will know our God.

**Rachel Richardson**  
**Casey Junior Campus**  
**Grade 5/6 Coordinator**

### Prayer / Praise Points

- Please pray for our Open Day this Saturday. Pray for all those involved with set up, tour guides, staff and parent helpers. Pray for new enrolments.
- Please pray for God's wisdom for our Government as they make decisions regarding the new Equal Opportunities Bill (see Article on Pg 3).
- Please continue to pray for those in our community that are sick or on medical treatment.

**Open Day this Saturday 16th May**  
 11am - 2pm  
**Invite friends!**

Our Annual Open Day will be held this Saturday, 16 May at all three campuses between 11am - 2pm. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends to visit the school.

We would like to remind you of the 10% discount fee incentive for any new enrolments resulting from your introduction of new families to the school.

We are also holding the General Reunion Day on the same day so that our existing families can mention it to their older children or other past-students, parents and staff they know.

Another exciting bonus to this year's Open Day is that the Endeavour Hills Campus has invited Ben Price, renowned comedian and past student, to join them and he will be performing live at 1pm on the day. **All Welcome!**

**Open Day This Saturday 16th May**  
 Guest appearance by Australia's best impersonator and past student:  
**Ben Price**  
 @ E./Hills Campus  
**1pm**  
**Bring your family and friends!**

Maranatha is a Christian learning community in partnership with home and church where students are inspired to discover and develop their God-given gifts, abilities and character for a life of service to the Lord in contemporary society

## CAMPUS EVENTS

### E/Hills Events...

- **Monday 18 May**
  - Cross Country
- **Tuesday 19 May**
  - National Swimming Perth
  - Whole School Assembly
- **Wednesday 20 May**
  - Intermediate Sport
  - National Swimming Perth
- **Thursday 21 May**
  - National BB Trials
  - National Swimming Perth
  - C U @ the Pole 7.15am
- **Friday 22 May**
  - National Swimming Perth

### Doveton Events...

- **Monday 18 May**
  - Assembly - Mrs Lynne Mitchell
  - Little Fish Tales @ 9.30am
  - Second-hand Uniform Shop 9am-10am
  - Grade Prep, 1, 2 & 4
- **Tuesday 19 May**
  - The Art Place - at 9.30am
  - Zone Cross country for selected students Gr 3-6
- **Wednesday 20th May**
  - Myuna Farm visit for Preps
- **Friday 22nd May**
  - Grade 2 Sleep Over - all students to be collected by 7.45am

### Officer Events...

- **Tuesday 19 May**
  - Yr 7 Immunisations
  - Drama Excursion Year 8 / 9
  - Zone Cross country - selected students only.
- **Thursday 21 May**
  - SIS sports for Year 7 & 8 students
  - Duke of Edinburgh Hike - Yr 9
- **Friday 22 May**
  - Yr 9/10 SIS sports
  - SIS sports for Year 9 / 10

## ENDEAVOUR HILLS NEWS

**WANTED!** Size 12/14 Woollen MCS blue jumper. Call Peterine Smulders 0425855651. Thank you!

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Angelo Madafferi for being invited to train with the Under 15 Dandenong and District Junior Football League Interleague team. A great achievement! We look forward to watching your progress!

### Canteen News

Canteen will be closed all day Tuesday 19th May - No lunch orders.

### Vic Swim Team

Congratulations to the following students for making the Victorian Swimming team which will be contesting the National Christian Schools Championships next week in Perth. **Rachael Hancock, Haylee Prins, Samuel Yap, Jordan Evans, and Aaron Maidment.** Details of their achievements and results to come.

## Mathematics

Mathematics Peer Tutoring Program will be taking place after school.

The Mathematics Peer Tutoring Club has been formed to promote mathematics throughout the School and to organise tutors, who are very able mathematicians from Years 10, 11 and 12, to provide, once a week, one-on-one mathematics tuition for any student in Years 7, 8 and 9 needing extra assistance with their Mathematics.

These sessions will be offered after school so that students could attend more co-curricular activities and lunchtime classes (for tutors doing VCE Unit 3 and 4). This will also enable more students from Year 7-9 to access free one-on-one tuition with their Mathematics.

As such, the Peer tutoring program will begin to meet once a week starting from next Tuesday 19th May. The session will go from 3.40pm to 4.30pm in room D9.

Students who need extra assistance in mathematics or would like to review an assessment task are strongly encouraged to attend this free service.

I look forward to seeing students of the School taking advantage of this free service which is kindly offered by the Mathematics Peer Tutoring Club.

**Mr Tran (Program Coordinator)**

### Bible Readings

- Mon May 18 3 John verses 5-8
- Tue May 19 3 John verses 9-10
- Wed May 20 3 John verses 11-12
- Thu May 21 3 John verses 13-15
- Fri May 22 Review

### Senate Activities:



This is a state wide event that encourages students and teachers to gather together around the flag pole before school and pray for the school community and leaders of our nation.

**Everyone is encouraged to participate!  
Breakfast included**

## Discovery Years

Last term, Endeavour Hills DISCOVERY students worked on the theme "Who Am I?" Some of the students have completed an assignment about their families, interviewing family members from at least three generations. The resulting video, DVD, PowerPoint and

written interviews have been both creative and reflective about family relationships in both the challenges and the good times. The DISCOVERY students have learned much about the hopes and struggles and dreams of those in their extended family networks through this activity.

The following are some quotes from the assignments:

"We, like all families, have our disagreements, quarrels, fights and spats. Even though this happens, we usually forgive and say sorry."

"The way that our family communicates in good and bad times is that we all sit around together and have an open discussion so that we can work things out together with everyone's input."

"The most important thing to my grandma is her whole family..."



## Career News

Please refer to latest Career News on the school website.

Some of the highlights include: Marine Science Careers Days When: 22 June, 17 Sept and 30 Nov; What happens in a medical laboratory? Mon 6-Fri 10 July; Need help with your folio? See RMIT workshops Year 10's learn about Deakin University-holiday activity in June.

Year 10 Work Experience: Students are currently completing the Occupation Health and Safety Certificates in preparation for their Work Experience.

Year 10 Job Guide: This week, each student has been issued with the 09 Job Guide and have been asked to take it home to be used in family discussions of their future options.

Year 12 TIS: students will be attending the Tertiary Information Service at Monash University, Clayton campus on Monday, 25 May.

## OFFICER NEWS

### Assembly

There will be Prep - 6 assembly on Monday 18/5/09, 2:40 pm - 3:00 pm. Prep students will be presenting an item. Parents are welcome to attend.

### Open Day Reminder

At Maranatha, parents partner with Christian staff in nurturing their children. How satisfying it is to see students inspired as they learn about Christian views and values and discover their God-given gifts, abilities and character. If you know of others who would like to be a part of this amazing community, invite them along to our Open Day tomorrow, Saturday 16th May 11:00am - 2:00 pm.

## Indo Tour fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in the free dress last Monday. There will be sausage sizzle held on Tuesday 26/5/09 to continue to help raise funds for students going on the Indonesian Tour. More details to follow.

## Prayer

Monday morning prayer is continuing this year first thing Monday mornings. All welcome.

## After school Sports

The Active After-school Communities program began on Thursday 7th May and will continue until Thursday 18th June. The program runs from 3:20pm - 4:20pm each week. If you would like your child to participate in the program this term please fill in the parent consent form sent home with last week's news sheet and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible to confirm your child's place.

## DOVETON NEWS

### Open Door Access

Please feel free to come in to chat to Joe Belousoff every Tuesday from 9.00am – 10.00am, share your insights, unload burdens, present novel ideas or just come in to say hello. No appointments required.

### Prayer Time

Every Monday morning after the Prep – Grade 4 Assembly, parents, grandparents, friends are welcome to join the prayer time in the Interview room.

### Sale of Books

Parents are invited to look at books in the Interview Room. We have a variety of Booksellers who leave a selection of books that may be purchased. Parents are welcome to order. Payment of order must be left with Emma Dam or Joanne Prins prior to delivery date.

### Mothers' Day Stall

Thank you to all the shoppers at the Mothers day stall. Thank you to Mrs Janny Appel who put together all the amazing gifts. Thankyou to the mums who assisted with the running of the stalls. A total of \$1,117.50 was raised for P&F.

### District Cross Country

It would seem that our Doveton students are proving to be quite talented runners. 60 children represented our school at the annual District Cross Country held at Akoonah Park last Wednesday. Congratulations to all students who made it onto the District Team. This year 15 students in our District Team are heading off to the Zone Cross Country on Tuesday next week: Madeline Hole, Anastaysia Tsymay, Paige Carlson, Bianca Thomas, Akelah Weerasekera, Noah Charalambous, Joshua Grant, Patrick Mihaila, William Fountain, Madeleine Herat, Jack Cook, Caleb Poppenbeck, Lucy Crock, Tahlia Van Damme and Jacob Harris. Please prayerfully support our runners.



## Amendments to Equal Opportunities Act

We understand that the Government is of a mind to amend the Equal Opportunity Act and introduce a Bill to embody these changes in Law. This would be a very sorry day for Christian and other faith-based schools in that it would force fundamental changes to the basis on which they were established and on which they have operated for decades. In regard to these impending changes, we would like to encourage the following responses:

### • Prayer and Fasting

On **Wednesday, 20 May 2009**, the school encourages all students, staff, parents and the wider school community to join in a day of prayer and fasting. It will be an opportune time as a Christian community to corporately pray against any changes to the Equal Opportunity Act that would restrict our religious and educational freedom. The fasting, especially for students, need not be total abstinence but rather selective abstinence from a food or drink for the day. Please encourage and prepare your children for this.

### • Written responses and Petitions

According to Bob Johnston (of Christian Education National) it is imperative that we, as a Christian community do the following:

In courteous, yet forthright terms, we need to express to our elected representatives that our school community is strongly opposed to any attempt to:

- Remove or water down the exemptions and exceptions provisions of State laws that provide a coherent basis for faith-based schools to support parents in the education of their children within a framework consistent with the upbringing the children/teenagers receive in the home.
- Reduce or compromise the freedoms of religion encompassed in United Nations Covenants and Conventions to which Australia is a signatory, particularly:
  - o Clauses 2 and 3 of Article 26 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - o Clauses 3 of Article 13 of the International Covenant On Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - o Clauses 1, 2 and 3 of Article 18 of the International Covenant On Civil and Political Rights

If possible, an appointment can be made with your local representative. At the appointment, make a point of handing over a written submission on your views addressed to the Government and Opposition Parties with a request that it be handed to the Premier on your behalf.

The written submission can be as short as a page or two but must be written in your own words. The main points to cover (not copy) in that submission are as follows:

- State very clearly the importance of Freedom of Religion and Belief and the rights of faith-based schools to:
  - o Engage staff who can subscribe to a publicly declared Statement of Faith and coherently teach the curriculum with reference to a faith-based worldview.
  - o Design a curriculum that reflects and/or integrates the faith-based worldview that the school declares.
  - o Enrolls students on the basis that their parents understand, accept and support the faith-based worldview that the school declares as the foundation of the policies and praxis of the school.
- Oppose any attempts to remove or reduce current exemptions and exceptions to religious discrimination under Victorian Equal Opportunity Law (notably Sections 75, 76 and 77 of the Act).
- Oppose any attempts to change to increase the powers of the Equal Opportunity Commission to initiate an investigation against an organization without a complaint or an offence being formally drawn to the attention of approved authorities.
- Finish with a strong appeal to the Premier to discontinue any proposed changes arising from the Review of the Victorian Equal Opportunities Act and particularly recommendations arising from the Review of Exemptions and Exceptions provisions of the Act and the Gardiner Review.

The written submissions / letters should be addressed to the Chairperson of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee, Mr Carlo Carli MP. It would be good to also Cc copies of the letter /submissions to the Premier, the sitting member(s) for your electorate(s), the Opposition Leader, the Attorney General and the Leaders of Government and Opposition in the Upper House. The address of the Chairperson is as follows:

**Carlo Carli MP**  
**Chairperson**  
**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee**  
**Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne 3000**

**It would be great if we could each submit a letter!**

29<sup>th</sup> May '09 7pm  
Thailand & Indonesian Mission Trips

# TRIVIA & Auction NIGHT

Where: Maranatha Christian School  
Endeavour Hills Hall

Cost: \$15.00 per person  
Snacks provided on the night

Some Items for Auction on the night Include:  
Original paintings done by elephants in Thailand (This has to be seen to be believed), Holiday Accommodation, Sailing Trip, Tools, Vouchers for beauty treatments, Services by qualified Tradesmen, Hampers And much, much more.  
There will be live and silent auctions, trivia and games happening on the night.

Come along and enjoy a fun night and help support our school in Missions to the Nations.

Donations still gratefully accepted.

Ticket Enquiries:  
Call Michelle Sharp 9709 7269 or Delwyn Maidment on 9709 7221

**Part Time Work available:**

We are looking for 2 people with fluent English to work in Dandenong area in the heating industry.

One position is working in the warehouse with some heavy lifting involved and liaising with customers. 20 – 25 hrs per week – Mon, Tues and Thurs).

The other will suit a mum with children at school - This is a sales position. We need someone that can work 9-3pm Mon-Saturday .

We are at 1/10 South Link (Corner of South Gippsland Hwy) Dandenong South.

If any parent from the Maranatha community or their Church is interested please contact Fernando on 03 8787 5452 or email: Fernando@pivotstove.com.au

## Card-Making (Iris Folding)

For 7 - 13 year olds

The Rowville & District Neighbourhood House will be running the following upcoming workshop for children, for bookings please call 9764 1166

Our tutor, JACLYN, will show the children a different style of card making using colour coordinated strips of folded paper that are taped into place over a pattern, creating a spiralling design that resembles the iris of an eye or camera.

Wednesdays 4pm – 6pm 3rd & 10th June (2 sessions)  
\$16.50 All Materials Included.

A not-for-profit organisation, the fee we charge for this class is to cover the running costs.

## Thailand Mission Trip Fundraiser

Fernwood Women's Health Club in Narre Warren have offered us the following package for fundraising. All proceeds will go toward the Thailand Mission Trips 2009.

**Package Includes:**

- 21 Day Membership at Fernwood Narre Warren
  - 1 Free guest pass
  - 1 Free Personal Training Session
- \$100.00 Discount on 12 month membership
- 1 Free Simplicity Consultation - nutrition and weight loss
- 3 Personal Training Sessions for \$99.00

All this for just \$20.00

*If you are interested please call Michelle Sharp on 9709 7269*



### Beaconsfield Community Centre

O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield (hosted by Friends First Church)

Cost: \$30 - (includes finger food)  
Friday 22 May 2009 - 7:30pm til late



Hosted by Kingdom Culture at Friends First Church, Beaconsfield Community Centre, O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield

For further information Contact:  
Officer : Anne van Rensburg 9709 7321  
Doveton : Kari Sosnowski Ph: 9709 7355  
Endeavour Hills : Andre Sosnowski 9709 7274  
or go to: [www.bornagainelvis](http://www.bornagainelvis)



## Accommodation required for new Maranatha family

We have a family from the Templestowe area who have enrolled their children at our Officer Campus but are unable to start until they find a home in the Berwick/Beaconsfield/Officer area. Please contact our Registrar on 9709 7217 if you know of any temporary or permanent accommodation for a family of four (children grade 6 and 4).

## Shoes Wanted!

If families could donate any shoes in all shapes and sizes (no thongs) by next Wednesday to Endeavour Hills or Doveton Offices to be used by as a University Art project. Thanks!

