Principal Team Report

The 2014 School Year Commences

Welcome back to the start of the 2014 school year, and particularly to those students and parents who are for the first time becoming part of our College community.

It has been another GREAT START to the school year! Phoenix P-12 Community College is proudly on display at all levels of both campuses. With the new student uniform, College motto ‘In Knowledge there is Opportunity’, and the College values of ‘Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence’ leading all aspects associated with the high expectation agenda of the College. SENSATIONAL!!!

College DUX – Class of 2013

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge our 2013 Dux of the College, Lisa Cody, who achieved outstanding scores in all seven areas of study. An incredible achievement and we wish her well at the University of Melbourne where she will be studying Science.

Top ten Year 12 Students’ results from 2013...What pathway in 2014 have they chosen to take?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University or Field of Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Cody</td>
<td>University of Melbourne Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Sharp</td>
<td>Deakin University Geelong Engineering - Mechatronics and Robotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>April O’Neill</td>
<td>University of Melbourne Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddison Lonie</td>
<td>Monash University Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Mason</td>
<td>Federation University Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Polley</td>
<td>Deakin University Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Rundberg</td>
<td>University of Melbourne Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Polley</td>
<td>Federation University Mathematical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kane Anthony</td>
<td>Monash University Aerospace Engineering/Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Rodda</td>
<td>Deakin University Exercise and Sport Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Voigt</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University Teacher Education - Primary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Within our 2013 Year 12 group, 76 applied for further study; of these 73 were offered places in first round offers with a further 18 students taking up Apprenticeships, Traineeships or Employment. Two of our 2013 students have deferred for 12 months to undertake GAP Year programs in underprivileged communities overseas. Incredible! Well done! This highlights once again the ability of our College staff team to provide highly successful pathway outcomes for our students.

Phoenix P-12 Community College – New College Student Support Structure

A strategic change to our College structure has taken place for the start of 2014, with the College now broken up into five ‘Learning Villages’, one at the Redan Campus (P-6) and four at the Sebastopol Campus (7-12).

A staff team will be aligned to each group of students and provide a comprehensive Pastoral Care approach...
across the school. Staff at all levels of the Village will have a strong knowledge and understanding of their students; both as an individual and as a learner in the 21st Century. The concept is based on strong evidence and research and follows the adage ‘It takes a Village to raise a child’; something we know provides high level success for the students of today!!

The ‘Learning Village’ platform has been put in place to further evolve and support the school improvement strategies of our current College Strategic Plan (2012 – 2015); 2014 will see a stronger and more individualised learning culture continue to grow as we unpack further the vision that is Phoenix P-12 Community College.

The College Staff Leadership Team involved in all facets of this initiative is as follows:

- Ms Angela Quinn - Assistant Principal
  Student Learning/Special Programs.
- Mrs Karen Snibson - Assistant Principal
  Head of Middle School, Student Engagement and Wellbeing.
- Mr Andrew Greed - Assistant Principal
  Head of Senior School/Pathways & Transitions.
- Mr Michael Benoit (Assistant Principal)
  Head of Junior School/Student Learning.
- Mr Wayne Johnston (Acting Assistant Principal) – Teaching & Learning/Resource Upgrades.

A lot has happened in readiness for the 2014 school year as outlined below:

- Stage 1 of the school building program is almost complete; we will be definitely taking possession from April of two Learning Villages and a Science Centre ready for a Term 2 start. This will be fantastic for our students and the community ‘state-of-the-art’ facilities. Incredible learning and community spaces. Bring it on!!
- Ballarat Health Services have started construction of the new $8million Dental Health facility and training area with initial demolition of old school wings underway.
- Painting of classrooms on the Redan Campus has finished, and this has included a series of office spaces and student areas across at the 7-12 campus as well. This forms part of our ongoing maintenance program, which sees all internal walls and learning spaces painted bi-annually.
- The major upgrade to the Primary Campus toilet and breezeway areas, along with a full redevelopment of the Redan Campus Library is well underway. This is almost $200,000 of capital works and will offer significant improvement to these student facilities. A finish to this construction contract is scheduled by the end of next week ... Magic stuff ... Renovated areas are looking fantastic.
- Most classrooms on the Redan Campus have had new tables upgrades, with the final three rooms with a scheduled completion date of late February.
- You will also note that new Apple TV monitors / labs are being placed throughout both campuses to continue our ICT upgrade plan. In addition to this projectors will be permanently mounted throughout classrooms to allow for high eLearning flexibility across the College. Special thanks to Brendan O’Brien for his great work in this Stage 3 installation component of this ICT project.
- The BA@Phoenix is again well underway and about to commence Orientation Days for prospective students later this month. These will occur in the Sebastopol Campus Conference Room.
- 50 new laptops and another 60 iPads will be rolled out across both campuses to further improve our access to this ICT domain; final installation of this latest equipment will occur shortly.

New College Staff for 2014

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maths/Science</td>
<td>Emily Tattersall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths/Science</td>
<td>Troy Beggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths/Science</td>
<td>Tara Domaschenz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET/VCAL</td>
<td>Daniel Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English/SOSE</td>
<td>Stefanie Sharkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>P-6 Generalist</td>
<td>Erin Macaulay</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT TSSP</td>
<td>Mile Nasteski</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Cadet Unit Liaison</td>
<td>Kane Anthony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Traineeship</td>
<td>Simone Mc Neight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Traineeship</td>
<td>Jessica Mc Neigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support</td>
<td>Marisa Facchini</td>
</tr>
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College Student Leadership Teams

Congratulations again to this group. We look forward to working with them on a series of major school and student initiatives across the year. The duly elected 2014 Student Leadership group is as follows:

SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS

College Captains
Maddison Sharp, Jackson Ford, Emiley Cody and Tanner Norman.

College Vice Captains
Tiana Drever, Bradley McDonald, Claire Blower, Joshua Liston, Ally Dennis and Joshua Long.

House Captains
Laura Middlin, Hudson Sharp, Tyler Hamilton, Bailey
Coombes-Drake, Stephanie Wilson, Matthieu Brehaut, Mary Greed, Trent Robertson, Clare Shelton, Rachael Keen, Jemma Harris, Zac Voigt, Caitlin Relouw, Aleasha Kelly, Priya Mala, Angela O’Neill, Savannah Rodgers, Jessica Keen, Bianca Eustice and Alana Ryan.

**Student Representative Council**

Finally, it’s been a great beginning to the year with over 250 new students across the College; 155 of these being at Year 7; 25 at Prep and new students entering all year levels from Year 1 => 12. All students have spent their first two weeks being introduced to a lot of new learning and it has been fantastic to see the way in which they have involved themselves in the tasks being undertaken. Congratulations to all student leaders for their support and guidance of these groups.

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**Senior School Update**

The beginning of the year for Senior Students is a confusing and busy time but they need to make sure of several things to ensure that they are successful this year.

All students need to have a timetable that reflects their pathway needs. They need to have a carefully planned school, work and personal life timetable.

They need to ensure that they are keeping healthy by exercising, eating well and sleeping well.

They need to ensure that they have a quiet and effective study area.

Probably most of all they need to be aware of VCAA Guidelines for Assessment as all schools in the State operate under these guidelines.

Primarily the students need to do the following to be successful:
- Complete the work in class.
- Hand the work in on time.
- Make sure it is their work.
- Keep absences low and ensure if they are absent that they have professional evidence. (Notes from home are NOT acceptable to the VCAA.)

Students who follow these guidelines will have a far greater chance of success in 2014 and we wish each student all the best.

**Mr Andrew Greed**
Assistant Principal - Senior School

**Middle School Update**

We welcome all students from Years 7–9 to Phoenix P-12 Community College for 2014. It has been a really smooth start to the year; all students have their lockers, timetables and diaries.

At Phoenix all of our day-to-day interactions are based upon the College values:

**Respect:** All students and staff act respectfully towards one another.

**Responsibility:** Students are encouraged and supported to make the most of each and every opportunity.

**Integrity:** Students and staff act with honesty. We demonstrate integrity by staying true to our morals, regardless of who is watching.

**Excellence:** Students and staff work together to enable students to achieve their best.

**Cooperation:** We work positively in teams in all aspects of College life.

The start of the year is incredibly important for setting good patterns of attendance and organisation. We encourage all parents to monitor students by way of their diaries. It is both an organisational tool and a communication tool. Students need to take care of their diaries as it needs to last the entire year.

**Uniform:** It is tremendous to see most students wearing their uniform with pride. We do remind parents and students that socks for boys are grey and socks for girls are white. Black socks are not a part of the uniform. We have noticed that there are a small number of girls who are “cross-buttoning” the tab on the back of their school dress. We ask that girls DO NOT do this as it puts pressure on the seams of the dress.

**Mrs Karen Snibson**
Assistant Principal - Middle School
What is a College Council and what does it do?

All government Colleges in Victoria have a College Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a College within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a College Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the College provides for its students.

Who is on the College Council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s College as long as they are not employed at the College.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of College Council. The Principal of the College is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the Council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual College Council elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?**

Parents on College Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the College.

Those parents who become active on a College Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- Standing for election as a member of the College Council.
- Encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on College Council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s College and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the College’s future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

The Principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All College Council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a College in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the College Council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the College for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Consider standing for election to Council this year.

Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the College or Principal for further information.**

General Office 5329 3293

phoenix.p12.cc@edumail.vic.gov.au
In February we had Grade 4, 5 and 6 students attend a Superclinic at the City Oval with the North Melbourne Football Club. The students had an opportunity to gain some great coaching tips regarding their football skills from all the players. They performed various drills which looked at kicking, handballing, goal kicking, marking and tackling. The students received lots of goodies from the Club which they then had the chance to get signed by the players. This was a fantastic experience for our students to interact with elite athletes.

Belinda Slater
Physical Education
Redan Campus

Immunisations dates for 2014

March 5th
Year 7 (girls & boys) – Chicken Pox & HPV
Year 9 (boys) – HPV

May 7th
Year 7 (girls & boys) – HPV
Year 10 (boys & girls) – Adolescent Whooping Cough, Diphtheria & Tetanus

October 22nd
Year 7 (girls & boys) – HPV
Year 9 (girls & boys) – HPV
SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS
YR 7 - 12
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
THIS FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY
EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS YEAR’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL IF NOT TO SWIM TO SUPPORT YOUR HOUSE!!!!

There will be buses taking students to the Eureka Pool and back to the College.

Students will need sunscreen, water bottles, bathers and a towel.

There will be a BBQ for students to raise money for ‘World Challenge’.
Sausages $1.00
Super Duper Icy Poles $1.00
Come dressed in your house colours!!!!!

No coloured hairspray or crepe paper!!!!

There will be a free swim at the end of the day for all students.

KINGSBURY YELLOW
MITCHELL GREEN
NEWTON BLUE
STURT RED
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Enrolment Process

Our interview/electronic Enrolment Process has been very successful this year. It is a great way to not only enrol our new students, but a change to meet the family contacts and discuss any individual needs.

Please contact the General Office if you need any assistance, or wish to make an appointment with any staff members.

Maintaining family details

With the move to electronic communication, or mobile telephone contact, it is even more important that you keep your family contact details up to date at all times.

Please contact the General Office if you have any changes regarding your family address, emergency contact phone numbers, employment or family/guardianship changes. We need to have current data to make sure we can contact you in case of an emergency.

If you have a new or recently changed email, please make sure you let us know. The monthly Newsletter and Family Accounts are now emailed out to families, along with other vital information regarding the education of your child(ren).

Family Accounts

We have commenced sending out family statements via email. Families who had outstanding balances would have received their family statement early in January. These statements only reflected outstanding costs relating to 2013. New statements will be emailed out at the end of each month, commencing February. If you do not get a statement, please let us know and we can post or send a statement home with your child.

Many families have paid up the outstanding costs from last year or already commenced CentrePay or BPAY payments directly into their account. (Thank you.) This is a great way to get on top of your outstanding fees. If anyone would like to discuss their account, or have questions around setting up regular instalments, please do not hesitate to contact the College. It would be appreciated if you could please try to pay these accounts as soon as you can.

Set up Regular Payments

It makes payment of the costs much easier to manage if you are finding it more difficult to meet your obligations due to the changes to support funding. We are happy to receive regular weekly or fortnightly deposits into your family accounts. CentrePay or BPAY makes it easy; once it is set up the money is deposited directly into your family account and allocated to costs. Any overpayment is held as credit and will be used to pay for excursions or other costs which may arise throughout the year.

Ms Lorraine Hayes
Business Manager

NEXT GEN EXHIBITION 2014

Congratulations to six of our 2013 Year 12 Visual Arts students who have been selected to exhibit their artworks in the Next Gen Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Jessica Burns, Catherine Gerlach, Alex James, Anthony Verlinden, Teagan Walker and Mikala Bailey were very excited to attend the opening in February. The students were selected from entries from all over the Ballarat and Western districts. Next Gen 2014 showcases the work of students who have just completed Year 12 VCE studies in Art, Studio Arts, Design and Technology, Visual Communication and Design and Media.

To add to the excitement of the opening night, Jessica Burns was awarded the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Sculpture Award. Judge’s comments were: “The work shows great use of materials, with excellent form and shape, and works well in the Gallery context.”

The exhibition runs through to 23rd March at the Art Gallery of Ballarat on Lydiard Street.

Pictured left: Jessica Burns and her winning Sculpture with her Art teacher, Ms Julia Newson.
What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.

- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.

- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.

- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptom.

- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

Parents and carers of children with ADHD are welcome to join a support group at Pinarc Disability Support, Ballarat East.

Date: 4th Tuesday of the month
Time: 9.30 - 11.30 am
Venue: Pinarc Disability Support.
20 King St Nth,
Ballarat East.
RSVP: Melissa Delaland-Desfosses
Phone 5329 1361 or mdelaland-desfosses@pinarc.org.au

Tuesday 25th February
Discussion topic: Managing Stress

Tuesday 25th March
Discussion topic: Behaviour Management Techniques presented by Behaviour Therapist & Counsellor, Bobbi Cook

Tuesday 22nd April
Discussion topic: Online forums & resources

Tuesday 27th May
Discussion topic: Healthy eating presented by BHS Dietician,
Careers Centre Information

Cheryl Kennedy is Phoenix P-12 Community College Career Development Practitioner. Located in the Careers Centre within the Learning Resource Centre Cheryl’s role is to ensure all students from Years 7 to 12 have an individual Career Action Plan with an indication of the student’s vocational destination and employment aspirations.

Through the Careers Centre students have access to career counselling, information relating to University and TAFE courses Australia wide, apprenticeships, traineeships and Australian School Based Apprenticeships. Students are offered services such as: part time work employment options, safe@work programs, trade and University taster sessions, resumes and job application writing, Tax File Number application forms and Centrelink information. Regular updates are on the Student Bulletin and the Senior Students and College Careers Centre Facebook page.

ALL Senior Students should collect a Tax File Application consent form from the Careers Centre as soon as possible.

Years 10 - 12 Students: From Year 10 students have the opportunity to undertake Work Experience or Structured Workplace Learning relating to their career ambitions and VET subject. Students are encouraged to seek a host to accommodate these placements. Placement agreement paperwork can be obtained from the Careers Centre after consultation with Ms Kennedy.

Throughout the year Senior Students also receive regular Career Newsletters via a link on their Career Centre Facebook page. These Newsletters contain resources relevant to student pathway plans including information related to University Open Days, course information, University information sessions and how to apply for UMAT 2014 (Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test). Registration for UMAT opens in early April 2014 for students interested in undertaking a University undergraduate course in Medicine, Dentistry or Health Sciences. More information is available in the Careers Centre between 8.30 am – 4.30 pm.

Parents/Guardians, Student interviews may be scheduled throughout the year by calling; Direct Line 5329 3263.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Year 11 Senior School Head Start Information Session
Wednesday 19th February 2014
7.00pm – 8.30pm
Careers Centre in the L.R.C.
Parents & Students are encouraged to attend

Year 10 Work Placement Information Session
Wednesday 26th February 2014
7.00pm – 8.30pm
Careers Centre in the L.R.C.
Parents & Students are encouraged to attend

SMYTHESDALE BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Seeking Junior Footballers:
U12 (on 1st January 2014) Training starts March 4th
U14 ½ Training starts March 4th
U17 ½ Training underway
Home ground and training: Smythesdale Recreation Facility.
10 minutes drive from the Wiltshire Lane/Glenelg Highway roundabout.

Parents:
• Are you sick of your child not getting a game at their current club?
• Are you travelling 20 minutes across town for training and home games?
• Do you see the same kids every week missing most game time?
• Are you new to the area and don’t know we are a local footy club available to you?

Junior Footballers:
• Are you sick of ‘warming the bench’ for most of a game?
• Are you sick of not getting a game? Even if you’ve trained harder than a team mate?
• Do you simply wish to “kick off” your footy career?
• If you’ve answered “YES” to any of the above questions, then give us a call, or come to training.

Phone:
Nick McCulloch 0417 702 297
or
Nick Gray 0409 633 324
* Training is Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 pm *
2014 CALENDAR
Secondary Campus
February

19th Year 11 Parent/Student Info. Session
7.00pm - 8.30pm LRC.
20th Intermediate and Senior Tennis
21st Sebastopol Campus Swimming Carnival
Eureka Pool - ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE AND/OR SUPPORT THEIR HOUSE.
24th College Council Meeting 6pm
Intermediate and Senior Cricket
26th Year 10 Work Placement Info. Session
7.00pm - 8.30pm LRC
27th Community Challenge Gong Walk

March
4th 2015 INFORMATION EVENING
Tours start at 6pm Information Session for Parents and Students 7pm.
Interschool Swimming Sports
7th Sebastopol Photo Day
10th LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY - NO STUDENTS
14th Yr 7 Science Excursion - Scienceworks
F1 Grand Prix Excursion
18th Redan Campus Athletics Day
21st Sebastopol Campus Athletics Day
ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE AND/OR SUPPORT THEIR HOUSE.
24th AGM Council Meeting 6pm

April
2nd Interschool Athletic Sports
4th END OF TERM 1

Think UV not heat! A timely reminder to be SunSmart.
• Slip on a shirt
• Slop on sunscreen
• Slap on a hat
• Seek shade
• Slide on sunglasses

Free SunSmart App available for iPhone, iPad or Android

Features include:
• Sun protection times
• Alert function
• 7 day weather forecast
• Vitamin D tracker
• Sunscreen calculator

DEB BALL EXPO 2014
Wednesday 26th February
6:30pm to 9pm
Ballarat Golf Club (1800 Sturt Street)
Entry $5 - tickets are now available to purchase
Displays of hair stylists/ makeup artists/ nail technician etc.
Pre-loved deb dresses for sale
For ticket enquiries contact
Narelle 0409 170 440
Anyone wishing to sell a pre-loved dress please contact Kira on M: 0418 914 191

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.
John Dewey

Student Absence
It’s not okay to be away!
Phone
5329 3210