

DVC NEWS

Diamond Valley College 165-179 Main Hurstbridge Rd, Diamond Creek , Phone: 9438 1411 , Website: www.dvallcoll.vic.edu.au

Important College Dates

TERM 4

- 25 Oct Yr 12 Graduation
- 31 Oct VCE Commencement
- 1 Nov End of Year Music Concert
- 8 Nov 2019 Yr 7 Information Evening
- 12 Nov Yr 10 Immunisation
- 22 Nov Yr 12 Formal
- 3 Dec Yr 9 Work Experience commences
- 11 Dec 2019 Yr 7 Orientation Day

Articles In this edition

- [Italian News](#)
- [Central Australia Tour](#)
- [Yr 7 Persuasive Writing](#)
- [DVC Makerspace Is Open](#)
- [Mobile Phone Gorilla Conversation](#)
- [Library—New Books](#)
- [Bus](#)
- [Dobsons Uniform News](#)

It is a difficult time for our Year 12 students, one of very mixed emotions. Excitement that the end of their secondary school years are nearing an end and looking towards a future that is full of possibility. Stress as formal classes wind up and the schedule of exams is getting closer and closer. Sadness that they will be leaving the familiarity and friendship of school that has filled so much of their life to this point.

I think back to my own experience and realise that this is no different to what I and many others went through. Part of us couldn't wait to leave the structure and confines of school behind ready to take on the challenges of university, travel and employment, while the other part felt comfort in the routine, the structure and the familiarity of school. We can all empathise with the experience of our Year 12's.

Our Year 12 students are to be congratulated on the manner in which they are approaching the final weeks of their studies. Many supported the holiday program provided by a number of teachers and they approached last week's practice exams in the manner intended. Offering the opportunity to have externally supervised exams allowed students a real experience of what is to come in two weeks and the opportunity to get feedback on their exam knowledge.

The next two weeks are going to be hectic. They have final classes, celebration activities, their final assembly and graduation – all while maintaining a study routine vital for exam preparation.

On behalf of the College community I wish them all the very best for the coming weeks and for successful, happy futures. I encourage them to follow their dreams, keep challenging themselves and take up opportunities. I would also like to thank the families who have supported their children and the College during their educational journey. For those who are leaving the Diamond Valley family – thank you for entrusting your child's education to us.

Congratulations to our newly appointed College Captains Oliver Greenall, Kiera Hunter, Olivia Stewart and Hayden Swift. As always it was a pleasure to work with Steve Chapman and Rebecca Taylor during the process of selection. We have so many wonderful leaders within our College and it is a difficult task to select a team that bring together a range of qualities and skills. I wish to thank all of the students who committed to this process and encourage them to continue leading the way as terrific role models to all students.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green who joined Diamond Valley College last week as Principal for a Day. This is an initiative of the Australian Council for Educational Research, which provides business and community leaders the opportunity to spend a day in government schools. It allows participants to gain some understanding of the running of a school and the vast and varying challenges school principals face.

Danielle spent part of the day with our College Captains who spoke of their vision for the College and its students, she attended classes, a college assembly and sat in our first meeting with architects for our stage 2 building project. It was great to be able to share our day with her and I must say it was mutually beneficial.



PRINCIPALS NEWS (cont)



Principal for the Day Danielle Green with College Captains Hayden Swift, Olivia Stewart, Oliver Greenall and Kiera Hunter

Allison Bennett
Principal

ITALIAN NEWS

ITALIAN

On the 12th September some of the Year 9 students studying Italian performed a play based on the Commedia Dell'Arte at the Drama Seasons Performance Evening held in the new auditorium. I would like to say a big thank you to the following students:

Molly Maddox played Arlecchino, **Remy Hunter** played Isabella and Colombina, **Megan Jessop** played il Dottore Balanzone, **Nikola Mannix** played la postina and **Kate Wilson** played the narrator. To give insight to the performance **Emily Galizi** and **Georgia Kilgour** translated the play into English so the audience could understand.

I was very proud of these students as they worked very hard to memorise these lines in Italian.

ROSE MARASCO
ITALIAN DOMAIN LEADER



CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TOUR



Our journey began by flying from Melbourne Airport to Darwin. When we arrived in Darwin it was a balmy 37 degrees. Luckily, we spent most of the afternoon at the Waterfront and playing in the wave pool. We then travelled out to Lee Point where we camped the first night. We watched the sun go down over the ocean which was amazing.

Our second Day was an early start as we travelled from Darwin to Kakadu. We crossed the West Alligator River and out to Jabiru. We spent the afternoon looking at some amazing art sites before climbing Ubir Rock. From here, we watched the sun go down over Kakadu which was one of the highlights of the trip. We got back to camp around 8:30 that night and after setting up our tents, cooled off with a swim in the beautiful pool in the camp ground.

The next day was an early start as we needed to get on the road and drive to Yellow Waters, which is a beautiful wetland in the heart of Kakadu. We jumped on a small boat and headed out onto the plain which was full of wildlife. We saw buffalo, wild horses, plenty of birds and heaps of crocodiles. Apparently this water system is one of the most heavily populated areas for crocodiles in Australia. After the boat tour we went to a resort and enjoyed a buffet breakfast.

After breaky we drove south and out of Kakadu National Park. We spent most of the afternoon in the bus as we needed to get to Katherine by nightfall.



The next day we packed up early and walked down to Katherine Gorge where we jumped on another boat for a tour of the Gorge.

This was a fantastic experience. The gorge is an amazing rock formation carved out by huge amounts of rain that falls in the wet season. We learned a lot from our guide about indigenous culture and how the traditional owners of the land lived in harmony with the area.

After the tour, we got back on the bus and continued heading south. We stopped at a place called Mataranka for lunch. This is a beautiful place with a crystal clear spring that comes out of the

ground at 36 degrees. The water goes into a big pool where you can swim. Unfortunately there were thousands of bats in the trees and where there is bats, there is also bat poo.

We stopped for a break in the afternoon at a place called Dailey Waters. Here they have a pub that everyone leaves something on the walls. We saw bus passes and student cards from students on past camps and stuck our own things up.

That night we stayed at Berry Springs. It was such a nice night that we decided not to set up the tents. Instead, we slept out under the stars.



The trip from Berry Springs to Alice Springs is about 800km. We spent most of this time on the bus watching movies and playing cards. One important stop was a place called Devil's Marbles where huge rocks the size of buildings sit on top of other rocks.

We arrived in Alice Springs in the late afternoon and looked forward to sleeping in cabins for 2 nights.

During our stay in Alice Springs we visited ANZAC Hill, the School of the Air (which is the biggest classroom in Australia covering over 3000km) and the Royal Flying Doctors Service (where we donated over \$225 from the swear jar).

After our stay in Alice Springs, we headed off to Kings Canyon, an amazing rocky outcrop with huge cliffs on either side of a tropical oasis. We walked around the rim of the canyon and visited the Garden of Eden.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TOUR (cont)

Our last major bus ride was out to Yulara. After setting up camp, we drove to Kata Juta (the Olgas) and walked up through one of the many incredible valleys between the domes. The Valley walls create the perfect acoustics and another highlight was Nick Curry singing a beautiful opera song in the middle of the valley.

The last and most spectacular experience was spent walking around Uluru. This rock in the middle of the desert is incredibly special, and walking around it gives you a real perspective of just how big it is. Our last night was spent watching the sun go down over Uluru



On our last day, we packed up the tents for the last time, spent any money we had left on souvenirs and headed to the airport. We flew home via Sydney and arrived back at school at 9:00pm Sunday night.

The Central Australia Camp was an incredible experience. We saw so much of Australia and highly recommend it to students in the future.

On behalf of all of the students who attended the camp, we would really like to thank Tourism NT for donating \$1000 that contributed towards activities such as the Yellow Waters Cruise and the Katherine Gorge Tour.

We would also like to thank our teachers Steve, Jo, Barb and Ben for taking us.

YEAR 7 PERSUASIVE WRITING

Year 7 English students get to write in a range of styles, for example narratives, poems, text response essays and persuasive texts.

Here's an example of a persuasive text from Jed. In the High Achievers class, students were able to choose their own issue to write on, related to a question of justice.



More needs to be done to help homeless Australians - by Jed 7.4

Just imagine yourself, living a normal life, with money, food, water and shelter – and lots of it. Imagine if suddenly you were injured, or you were forced out of work, or if anything of that sort suddenly happened to you, and if everything mentioned before was just taken away from you. You would have just lost everything in your life, living on the streets of Melbourne, or any city for that matter, and at risk of infection, hypothermia, starvation and dehydration. You'd have no money or income and little governmental support. Well, that's how tens of thousands of people across Australia are living right now. These are the conditions that they are facing on an everyday basis and it is just not right. Not enough is being done by the government and the number of homeless people is just increasing. Just think how you would handle those inhumane conditions.

Homelessness is a big problem in Australia. Here we have many more people without a home than some much larger countries. Roughly 116 thousand people were considered homeless from the 2016 Census, which represents around 1 in every 200 Australians. Nearly half of those people have living conditions described as 'severely crowded dwellings.' Severely crowded dwellings are defined as areas that, if it were a completely normal household, should have, at the bare minimum, four bedrooms. Studies reveal Australia has seen a drastic increase in the rate of Homelessness, and this can be traced back to mostly these crowded dwellings. The number of people living in these dwellings increased by 10 thousand people in only 5 years from 2011 to 2016. As well as this, it was shown that recent migrants to Australia accounted for 15% of homeless people, which calculates to roughly 18 thousand. These statistics are absolutely shocking.

One of many plausible solutions would be to have better governmental support towards helping people who are homeless. Currently, the government provides inadequate support to homeless people. The small, inconsistently donated money is simply a façade produced by the government to cover up their unwillingness to support what is one of the largest issues currently devastating our nation. Even just better funding of charities or giving a more feasible amount of money to people who need it would be a great step forward. Another solution would be to provide healthy food, water and shelter. They should all be considered humane and should closely resemble the ordinary living conditions of someone who is not homeless. Food should be provided at little to no cost and should be of a good standard, in terms of cleanliness and health. The current state of some homeless shelters in some parts of Australia is disgusting and no human, homeless or not, should have to bear the conditions within them.

Many people blame homelessness on things like drugs or mental health disorders, but this is not always the case. As stated before, lots of cases of homelessness are caused by an issue involving loss of work, or an injury, or anything of this sort, that has nothing to do with drugs. It is not someone's fault if they can't generate enough income to support themselves and their family. Nor are they to blame if something happens that prevents them from earning money. Sure, they might be dragged into consuming drugs once they're homeless, but this is simply an after-effect. People don't just suddenly turn homeless because they spend all their worth on drugs and alcohol. A lot of people seem to consider drug addiction as a strong point, but I couldn't agree any less. This is a terrible point that many often use as a cheap scapegoat. Drug purchase is only a miniscule factor in the big scheme of things and is not to blame for every individual case of homelessness.

Australia has over one trillion dollars to use; we could really use more of that to go towards solving homelessness.



DVC MAKERSPACE IS OPEN!

After a long wait with the building process and then organising furniture and equipment, we thought it a fitting opportunity to launch the MakerSpace during the Arts & Tech “Creative Edge” Festival. The purpose-built room is in the library, next to the Computing labs. During the week, it has been open at lunchtime for students to explore, and to show some of the resources that are available for projects they may create during their time at school. Diamond Valley College was able to secure a \$10,000 grant earlier in the year to support our Digital Technologies courses.

Resources that have been acquired include:

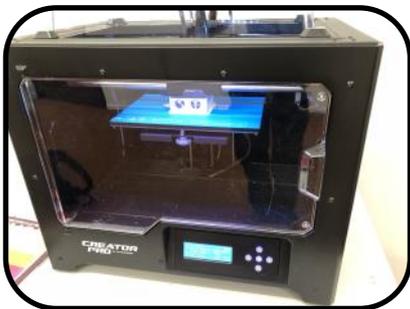
- Raspberry Pi single board computers
- Arduino microcontroller kits
- mBot robots
- a laser cutter
- a 3D printer
- micro:bit devices
- a weather station

These new resources significantly enhance the school’s ability to support students in creating their own solutions and products using digital technologies, which are all around them. The Digital Technologies curriculum allows students to become creators, rather than just consumers of technology.

The MakerSpace is also home to our specialised Virtual Reality computer, that the VET class is using to experience virtual spaces they are creating in software.

The space will also be the new home for CodeClub where students will be able to use these resources for their own projects during a lunchtime session each week.

Richard Fox
Learning Technologies Leader



MOBILE PHONE GORILLA CONVERSATION

They're Calling On Us!

Most of us look forward to upgrading our phones to the latest model. About 62% of the Australian population only keep their phones for two years. One in six phones are re-gifted, but only approximately 12% of discarded phones are recycled. In 2009 141 million mobile phones were discarded but only 12 million were recycled.

So why is this a problem? This is bad for the environment in two ways; many compounds found in electronics create toxic waste. Some research has found that electronic waste (E-waste) represents 2% of America's land-fill, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste. On top of that, many habitats are being destroyed as they are mined in the name of technology. Mobile phones in particular contain a large number of rare or precious metals including gold, silver, copper, hafnium and palladium. As there continues to be a growing demand for technology, there is also a growing demand for mining.

So how can you help? It's actually really simple. DVC has partnered with Zoos Victoria to collect **old mobile phones**. Not only will recycling these phones prevent toxic waste entering our landfills, and reduce the need to mine for more resources, but the money raised through the recycling process will pay for a group of specialised vets and conservationists known as the Gorilla Doctors to monitor and protect populations of Gorillas.

So have a rummage through your drawers, find all your old phones that are lying around and drop them into the school. Help us help the environment and vulnerable Gorilla populations- **they're calling on us** to help!



A WEEK AT DVC

This week has been a busy here at Diamond Valley College. We have had the following events take place this week:

VCAL – Stories of my Life presentation with Diamond Creek Men’s Shed members



Teachers v Students Football Match



Year 9 CFA awareness day



A WEEK AT DVC (cont)

The Creative Side

This week we held an exhibition called “The Creative Side” which features many works that our students have been working on their classes such as Art and Wood. Keeping in line with this theme on Friday students were allowed to come to school showing their creativity and dressed as their favourite character.



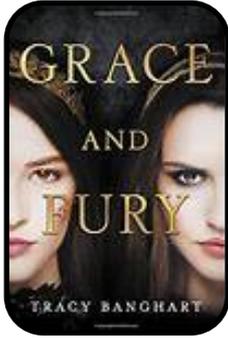
Look for more on how “The Creative Side” exhibition went in our next newsletter.

DONATIONS

Ruby and Elly collected books for a High Resolves class. The books are going to be donated to the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation (ALF). The ALF will make sure that all the books are sorted, packed and delivered to Indigenous communities around Australia that need help. ALF are a non- profit organization that appreciate all donations that are suitable for ages 0 to 16



LIBRARY—NEW BOOKS



There was a difference between defiance and outright rebellion. Could she do this? Could she jump over the ledge?

Maybe not for herself but for her sister, YES.

In a world where women have no rights, sisters Serina and Nomi face very different fates: one in the palace, the other on an island prison where women must fight to survive.

Serina has spent her whole life preparing to become a Grace – selected to stand by the heir to the throne as a shining example of the perfect woman. But her headstrong and rebellious younger sister has a dangerous secret, and one wrong move could cost both sisters everything. Can Serina fight?

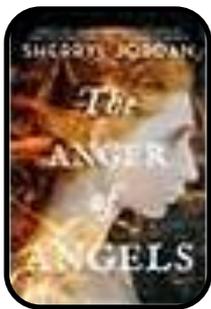
And will Nomi win?



For fifteen-year-old Shamiso, struggling with grief and bewilderment following her father's death, hope is a leap into endless darkness.

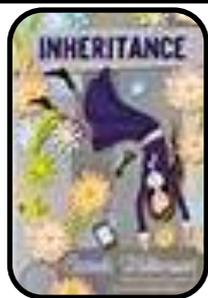
For her new friend Tanyaradzwa, battling problems of her own, hope is the only reason to keep fighting.

Rutendo Tavengerwei's extraordinary debut set in Zimbabwe takes an honest look at hope, and the grit and courage it can take to hang on to it.



"Words hold a terrible power. They can break a heart, or give it a reason to live. They can grant freedom - or begin a war."

In a world where it is a crime to speak against injustice, a jester dares to perform a play that enrages a powerful tyrant prince. The jester's daughter, Giovanna, must journey into the heart of danger to turn back the terrible consequences unleashed by her father's words – and becomes entangled in a treacherous plot to overthrow the prince. She alone holds a secret which, if made public, will end the prince's reign and liberate his oppressed people. But when to openly denounce him brings certain death, will Giovanna have the courage to speak out?



Nic is left in the care of her grandfather at the remote family property that was once her mother's childhood home; a place with thirty rooms, three dogs and no mobile reception. Left to her own devices, she searches for clues about her mother—who died the day Nic was born.

But when Nic learns how to slip through time, she discovers more than she could have imagined. The past holds a dark and shocking secret that haunts the land and the people who live there.



Sebastian is at a university open day with his best friend Tolly when he meets a girl. THE WRONG GIRL. Her name is Frida, and she's edgy, caustic and funny. She's also a storyteller, but the stories she tells about herself don't ring true, and as their surprising and eventful day together unfolds, Sebastian struggles to sort the fact from the fiction. But how much can he expect Frida to share in just one day?