

# ART, TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN



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Director of Art, Technology & Design

The Art, Technology and Design Faculty is a dynamic team which has again demonstrated a high level of commitment to best practice in art, design and technology education at Christian College, Geelong throughout 2010.

A broad range of challenging core and elective subjects and experiences, specifically designed to develop key knowledge and skills and stimulate lifelong appreciation, learning and enrichment were offered to students at the College this year.

Subjects provided included visual art, two dimensional art, three dimensional art, design and technology: wood, design and technology: textiles, food and technology, design and production, systems engineering, visual communication and design and studio arts.

We have continued to strive for excellence in teaching/learning across the above mentioned discipline areas, mindful of the ongoing need to shape and develop rich and meaningful teaching/learning opportunities that will arm our students with essential knowledge and skills of high relevance to 21st century living.

Our students have been challenged to think deeply, and to critically reflect upon how they learn. They have also been encouraged to take more responsibility for their own learning as they strive to become visually and technologically literate. The core Christian values upheld by the College have also been revisited. We continue to work towards embedding these attributes more authentically into our teaching/learning practices across the faculty from Prep. to Year 12.

This year, challenging enrichment and enhancement possibilities extending beyond the classroom provided us with additional educational opportunities for student engagement through

participation in exhibitions, extension tasks and research studies, workshops, excursions, performances, studio visits, competitions, parades, displays, projects and presentations.

## **Exhibitions**

During Semester 1, students from Years nine to twelve proudly viewed the art work of former Christian College students Jack Crosby and Nina Waldron (studio arts class of 2009), at the National Gallery of Victoria's Ian Potter Centre for Australian Art's Top Arts Exhibition. This highly prestigious presentation featured the very best of 2009's A+ VCE Art and Studio Arts students from Victorian schools. Both students were also represented in the impressive full colour exhibition catalogue and Jack was one of four exhibited students to be honoured in a feature article for the National Gallery of Victoria's quarterly publication.

In addition, several of our students from Years nine through to twelve attended Season of Excellence VCE Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Victoria, the Melbourne Museum and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. Viewing Top Arts, Top Designs and Top Screens, inspired these students to identify key ideas, techniques and processes which continue to inform and deepen their future learning goals in constructive and powerful ways.

Year 12 Studio Arts students also attended the Melbourne Art Rooms in Port Melbourne to view 'Touch This'; an innovative sculpture exhibition. This cutting edge show encouraged our student viewers to behave in an unconventional manner, by touching and physically interacting with the artworks on display.

## **Excursions**

Year 8 Highton and Bellarine 3D art students

thoroughly enjoyed a 'hands on' visit to a ceramic / glass artist's studio to create slumped glass artwork.

Media studies students visited the Channel Nine studios in Melbourne to participate as audience members in the taping of five back to back episodes of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. They were able to ask Eddie McGuire and the team about the processes and equipment involved in creating and producing a game show. This experience provided those studying media with a comprehensive insight into the illusionary nature of television.

The media studies groups also attended Adam Elliot's delightful 'Mary and Max' claymation presentation and Screen Worlds, a 'hands-on' visual exhibition which told the story of the moving image; one of the most pervasive and powerful cultural forms of our time. Implementing numerous technologies, students were able to interactively explore film, television and digital culture of the past, present and future throughout this outstanding presentation.

Students of textiles visited Top Designs and Whitehouse Studios in Melbourne to investigate a diverse range of career options available in the contemporary fashion and textiles industry. These included styling, fashion illustration, promotions and public relations, fashion and textile design, interior design and merchandising to name but a few.

Year 6 Bellarine Art students attended Van Loon's Nursery to gain direct observational experience for their study of the 'en plein air' art movement, (French term for 'in the open air'), 'Impressionism'. Students used photos and sketches recorded on the day to develop artworks inspired by French impressionists such as Claude Monet.

Bellarine senior students also moved out of the classroom to conduct observational drawings of man-made structures in Drysdale and to explore and visually document naturally occurring phenomena in and around the seaside town of Queenscliff.

Selected systems engineering classes visited the Haptics laboratory at Deakin University to

investigate research surrounding 'haptics', (user interfaces which employ the sense of touch), systems modelling, augmented reality and robotics. They also gained some valuable insights into the extensive possibilities available in contemporary engineering careers.

These visits confirmed the need for us to continue immersing students in highly engaging and interesting real life contexts beyond the physical confines of the traditional classroom environment to add an additional dimension of meaning which brings learning to life.

The very essence of teaching/learning in Art, Design and Technology subjects involves constant references to conceptual, visual, spatial, tactile and other sensory, experiential and intellectual factors. A thousand words can never replace the potency of direct engagement with the 'real' or original object, installation, model, artwork, performance, space etc. Aesthetic qualities such as scale, dimension, material qualities, texture, colour, space, movement etc. are more powerful and memorable when encountered directly.

### **Teaching Practice**

Faculty staff have strategically continued to develop and refine curriculum content as well as teaching and learning methodologies which encourage students to become more autonomous learners. Students have undertaken active and divergent processes of investigation during classes which have involved them in looking, exploring, investigating, thinking, feeling, refining, responding and creating.

Interested students have also been inspired to investigate and discuss art, technology and design related pathways for ongoing success in further education, training or employment. Mock interviews and folio support services were also provided to students as required.

### **Highlight Activities**

Some students have experienced additional opportunities to rise to a number of other creative challenges and exhibition opportunities involving a design process approach.

Food and technology students, Ebony Corless, (Year 6), Katie Rowe (Year 6) and Luisa Byrne, (Year 9), from Bellarine won major prizes in the Victorian School's Home Economics Victoria recipe challenge. Several students also received numerous awards from the judges of the Geelong Agricultural Show for their innovative iced cake designs, slices and biscuits.

Our Junior School students constructed paper poppies with tender loving care for a unique and expressive Anzac Day display. Selected junior art students were also awarded commendations and third prize overall in the Barwon Grange Festival with their thoughtfully researched images inspired historical times.

Stephanie Ross of Year 12 was selected to exhibit her powerfully creative visual response to the tragedy of the recent bushfires, in the Independent Schools Victoria Annual Student Art Exhibition. Year 12 studio arts student, Michelle Hiddleston, won 2 major prizes at the 2010 VCE exhibition conducted at the Shearer's Arms Gallery by the Geelong Art Society. Additional art students were also identified by the Independent Schools Victoria curator for inclusion in two major shows planned for 2011.

A short film was developed and refined to capture last year's highly successful 'Artists in Schools' project: 'The Art of Sport', funded by Arts Victoria. This year our project was utilised by Melbourne University, in conjunction with Arts Victoria, as part of a comprehensive arts and education research initiative. Students at Bellarine and Highton have continued to recycle lids in readiness for another exciting inter/intra-disciplinary arts project to be rolled out in 2011.

In 2010 we conducted another highly successful Art, Technology and Design Extravaganza which was once again very well attended by the College community and beyond. This year we worked closely in collaboration with Andrew Dunlop and Dan Zampatti who enhanced the overall presentation to an exceptional standard. Our guest, new media artist, Kit Webster, was a popular choice with his patterned light projections livening up the face of the Villa Paloma building. Over 2000 works of art and design by Kinder to Year 12 students were displayed, modelled,

decorated and projected throughout the exhibition over a four day period. In addition to publically acknowledging the work of our students, this exhibition enriches teaching/learning and staff professional development in so many important ways.



### Faculty Planning

Additional tasks undertaken this year included further development of the Art, Technology and Design Faculty strategic plan, the review and revision of key procedures and protocols within the faculty and the writing and development of the Art, Technology and Design Faculty intranet materials. I have also continued liaising with the Heads of Campus regarding aesthetic/visual development at individual campuses in relation to 'differentiation' strategies and enhancement of teaching/learning outcomes and marketing possibilities.

Major documents regarding the annual Arts Extravaganza organisation and School productions were developed and research was also undertaken to update our O H and S strategies. All items have been recorded and tracked to aid research and evaluation processes.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working collaboratively with various professional learning teams to develop programs beyond the sphere of my faculty such as the Q'Ed Program for gifted and talented students.

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