Principal’s Message

Transitions

For those of us who have been a part of the BSC school community over years, there is a special privilege in seeing the students we remember fondly as brand new Year 7 students graduate at the end of Year 12. This passage from child to young adult is depicted in our school logo. The rising star represents our students emerging proudly and confidently from the school as young adults, ready to pursue their myriad dreams and goals.

And although the transition from school to tertiary study or work occurs each year, each time we farewell our graduating Year 12s we experience the same feelings of pride and reward.

The start of a new school year is also a special and rewarding time. A new year brings opportunities for renewal and growth. In 2013, we have introduced a significant number of new programs and opportunities for students, an outcome of last year’s Learning Review. A new year also brings new people and ideas. I warmly welcome students, staff, and parents who are new to Brunswick Secondary College in 2013 and invite your active contribution. Each member of our school community has a role and responsibility in shaping our school’s character and ethos. This year, our Year 7 students come from 36 different primary schools and 29 cultural backgrounds. They have made a positive first impression. A confident and friendly group, they seem eager to take on the challenges and opportunities of secondary school life. Year 7 Coordinator, Ms Nadia Cavolin, has asked many of the students individually about their goals. Nearly all responses have been of high quality and act as model to understand and act on this. Our College Dux emphasised this same point when he addressed the whole school assembly: ‘Year 11, you are starting VCE and you want to make sure you get off to a good start. Do your exams count towards your ATAR? No. Are your exams important? Of course. Yes. Try to do your best in your exams this year. Nothing else comes closer to replicating the real VCE exam experience. Also the content covered in Year 11 is very important to understanding Year 12.’

With Year 12 comes the final transition. The Formals and series of Graduation and other events we hold at Brunswick help to make it a memorable year. Above and beyond these events, Year 12 is special because of the exceptional bonds that students and their teachers form. The work is intellectually demanding and students and teachers work with shared determination and focus to achieve the best outcomes. At Year 12, the challenges are greater but so too are the rewards.

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

Dr Adam Fraser, on the importance of the daily transitions that we make from home to school and between each class or activity within the school day. Among many examples and anecdotes, Adam spoke about tennis players, citing studies that show that it is a player’s ability to recover from a lost point and make a successful transition to the next that is the greatest determinant of success at the elite level. He also illustrated the benefits for all of us in learning to concentrate thinking on what went well rather than dwelling on what did not work. Adam’s lecture connected very closely with our work on Appreciative Inquiry. Continuing parents will be aware of this from last year. There is a student made introductory film on the website for those new to this process:

Another important transition for Brunswick Secondary College in 2013 is the transition from the Rock Eisteddfod to the whole school production, the musical Fame. Rehearsals have begun in earnest and the next Brunswick Star will bring you news and photos of our progress to date and suggest ways that interested parents can become involved.

I would like to end with some staff news. Congratulations to Vernon Clarke and his wife, Cara, on the birth of their daughter, Abbey. Congratulations also to Shannon Widdeson and Kate Allbon who have both recently married, Shannon in the January holidays and Kate on this past weekend. Congratulations to Vernon Clarke and his wife, Cara, on the birth of their daughter, Abbey. Congratulations also to Shannon Widdeson and Kate Allbon who have both recently married, Shannon in the January holidays and Kate on this past weekend. I look forward greatly to the 2013 school year and to meeting you at the first Parent-Teacher-Student interviews on Tuesday 19th March.

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

The theme of Transitions has been particularly prominent this year. Before students returned to school, staff were involved in two days very productive days of professional learning. A highlight was a presentation by speaker and author, Dr Adam Fraser, on the importance of the daily transitions that we make from home to school and between each class or activity within the school day. Among many examples and anecdotes, Adam spoke about tennis players, citing studies that show that it is a player’s ability to recover from a lost point and make a successful transition to the next that is the greatest determinant of success at the elite level. He also illustrated the benefits for all of us in learning to concentrate thinking on what went well rather than dwelling on what did not work. Adam’s lecture connected very closely with our work on Appreciative Inquiry. Continuing parents will be aware of this from last year. There is a staff made introductory film on the website for those new to this process:
School Council President’s Farewell Message

Dear Parents,

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as a councillor and School Council President during the time my daughter, Rebecca and son, Alexander were students at Brunswick Secondary College. My term is up and I am very proud of the amazing achievements that Brunswick Secondary College has made, especially in creating a school culture where learning is at the centre of all work undertaken and in turn lifting student achievement. The facilities and resources have continued to improve so that students can learn in an environment that is modern and designed for 21st century learning. The extracurricular activities, including Rock Eisteddfod, Debating, and Sport, World challenge, Music performance etc. and other programs have given students amazing opportunities for personal growth and development.

The school’s enrolment has grown steadily in line with the growing reputation of the school and its programs. The Principal, Leadership team and Staff are passionate and focused on school improvement and meeting the academic and personal needs of the students. Brunswick Secondary College gave my children a wonderful education and opportunity to move into their adult options. As a passionate supporter of State Education, I urge parents to give consideration to joining the Parents Assoc. It is a wonderful opportunity to work with others to assist the school to achieve its goals but more importantly to ensuring that the students and staff get the best resources and programs as possible.

To all the school councillors I have worked with congratulations on your commitment to the school and thank you for the opportunity to serve with you over the past 10 years. I would also like to acknowledge the office staff that have also supported me in my role. I wish Vivienne, the leadership team, the staff and students continued success and look forward to reading and hearing great outcomes from Brunswick Secondary College.

Maree Guppy
School Council President

Learning Review Outcomes in Action

The start of the BSC 2013 school year has seen significant change as the 2012 Learning Review recommendations are implemented. At the heart of each reform is our commitment to optimising the classroom and co-curricular learning of each child, and to providing a cohesive social and emotional curriculum for students in every year level. Some of the outcomes in action are:

A weekly timetable that is easier to follow and remember than the previous fortnightly one.

72 minute periods instead of 48 minute singles or 96 minute doubles, allowing the pace of each lesson to better match research on optimal learning.

A four period day which allows for increased frequency of contact between teachers and students, with most subjects having three evenly spaced classes per week and no student having the same subject twice on the one day.

COGS - Community Opportunity Growth Success sessions are fortnightly lessons that replace both the nine minute per day pastoral meeting and fortnightly extended pastorals. COGS provides a structured program that better meets the well-being needs of our students at each year level in a timeslot that does not interfere with regular classes.

To see an overview of the program, visit http://www.brunswick.vic.edu.au/Learning/Pages/default.aspx

A Specialist Subject Review which ensures clear pathways through to VCE and VCAL for all specialist subjects and the introduction of Media (Year 8-11) and Environmental Science at Year 10.

A Performing Arts Block at Year 7 which allows a choice of music subjects (performance/bands or singing/musical theatre), the option of Theatre Sports or Drama, the introduction of The Arts of Peace, and continuation of the very popular Circus and Dance classes.

Timetabling all Year 10 Maths classes at the same time and all Year 10 Science classes at the same time which allows for greater flexibility, pathway planning, year level excursions and guest speakers.

Whole year level Sport at Year 7 and Year 8 which allows interschool sports to teams train together and a wider range of activities to be offered.
Hello, my name is Caroline Farah and you’ll see me working in the office. I job share the role of Student Administration, involving Year 7 transition and also new enrolments.

Although new to Brunswick Secondary College, I have been working part time in schools over the last 3 years, and in admin over the last 10 years. I have two children who both attended Brunswick Secondary College. The eldest is Andrew who graduated Year 12 in 2011 and Catherine who is currently in Year 8 also. I enjoy my work, especially the interaction with the students and look forward to working with the amazing staff and parents at Brunswick.

Hi. My name is Jing Chen and I came to Melbourne from China to study a Master of Teaching three years ago. Ever since the moment I set my foot on this land, I have been fascinated by its rich and diverse culture. Now I feel so proud to be starting my career as a Year 7 teacher of Chinese at Brunswick Secondary College. It marks a new chapter of my life in Australia. My background is in theatre arts and developmental psychology, and I have previously studied acting in New York. Since moving to Melbourne in 2011, I have worked with various arts organisations, including Melbourne Theatre Company and Play Writing Australia. I am very excited to continue on at Brunswick as a staff member. I believe there is much to look forward to - getting to know my students and colleagues, and becoming part of the Brunswick Secondary College community.

My name is Grace McCulloch and I studied my Bachelor of Arts with a Major in English Literature and Media Studies at La Trobe University in Bundoora.

Upon completion I worked at Chatrino as the Kids Specialist at the doomed Borders Carlton store. It was during one of my many Story Times that the ambition to become a teacher finally crystallised in my mind, and I spent last year back at La Trobe University undertaking my Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education to achieve this. Upon completion I worked at Channel 7, then as the Kids Specialist at the doomed Borders Carlton store. It was during one of my many Story Times that the ambition to become a teacher finally crystallised in my mind, and I spent last year back at La Trobe University undertaking my Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education to achieve this. After completing my last teaching round at Brunswick Secondary College, I was very excited about the school, and am thrilled I am back this year. I teach English in Year 8 and 9, and am running a Creative Writing Club every second Friday lunchtime.

My name is Tracie Eastwood and I will teach Dance at Brunswick Secondary College. My responsibilities also include staging the school production which I am delighted to be involved in. I have been Principal at standing ovation school of performing arts for many years teaching Dance, Dance Studies, VCE Dance and Music Theatre. I have also been Director and/or Choreographer for many productions, a VCE Dance Assessor for the past five years and have been teaching Dance and Performing Arts at St Paul’s Anglican Grammar School. I look forward to getting to know the staff, students and parents at Brunswick Secondary College and would like to encourage everyone to get involved with the school production. There will be an exciting year for all involved where we can share in an imaginative and creative performing arts journey.

I am keen to watch students realise their potential whether actors, dancers, singers, musicians or working backstage. Our common goal will be to produce the best possible show and to experience the magic of live theatre.

My name is Nick Tranter and I am looking forward to teaching 7-11 Drama this year. I also can’t wait to get started on our production, Fame! I am committed to creating a supportive and challenging learning environment where everyone can enjoy success. My background is in theatre arts and developmental psychology, and I have previously studied acting in New York. Since moving to Melbourne in 2011, I have worked with various arts organisations, including Melbourne Theatre Company and Play Writing Australia. After obtaining my teaching qualification last year, I am now going on to complete a Master of Teaching at the University of Melbourne this year. I am excited to now be a member of the vibrant Brunswick Secondary College community.

My name is Kelly Turner and this year I will be teaching PE/Health and Science. I grew up in Bairnsdale and have just graduated from a double degree in PE/Science and Outdoor Education teaching at the University of Ballarat. I spent last year teaching the course, as well as doing some research to complete my honours in Outdoor Education. I enjoy playing sports and spending time doing things in the outdoors. I am really looking forward to living in Melbourne and getting to know all of the staff, students and parents of the Brunswick Secondary College community.

Hi, my name is Sarah Meads and I will be teaching Health and Physical Education as well as some Outdoor and Environmental Studies at Brunswick Secondary College during 2013. After growing up in the country and spending the last 3 years working in a city school at St Arnaud College, I have decided to spread my wings and am extremely excited to be making my way to the big smoke. I hope to learn and experience lots of new and exciting things from the students, staff and Brunswick Secondary College community. I am also looking forward to sharing my experiences and expertise in a range of sports and outdoor pursuits. I am passionate about working with young minds in the outdoors and developing leadership skills to form a strong community. In addition to sport, fitness and the outdoors I love the performing arts and drama so am very keen to experience what Brunswick Secondary College has to offer!

My name is Sheila Calwell and I am thrilled to be working in a Brunswick community as I have lived in Brunswick for more than half my life now, which makes me a Brunswickian. I’ve worked in various fields such as with a historic buildings registry, a hospital, teaching English in Japan, in an outdoor education centre in Northern Ireland, being baby capsules from my home (you may have heard one from me!), teaching in a business college, a little cafe, wait assistant registrar at a tertiary college and most recently working at Melbourne airport. My favourite job was living and working in a girls’ boarding house for more than five years which is why I know I will enjoy being amongst students again. I love the personalities and joys/challenges they bring.

My name is Simone Vukotic and I am thrilled to be working in a Brunswick community as I have lived in Brunswick for more than half my life now, which makes me a Brunswickian. I’ve worked in various fields such as with a historic buildings registry, a hospital, teaching English in Japan, in an outdoor education centre in Northern Ireland, being baby capsules from my home (you may have heard one from me!), teaching in a business college, a little cafe, wait assistant registrar at a tertiary college and most recently working at Melbourne airport. My favourite job was living and working in a girls’ boarding house for more than five years which is why I know I will enjoy being amongst students again. I love the personalities and joys/challenges they bring.

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Meet BSC’s Student Leadership Team

School Captains

I believe I was a successful candidate for School Captain because of my previous role in peer support, and general participation in the Student Representative Council. I have a unique appreciation for Brunswick Secondary College as, over the years, it has offered me opportunities to become a focused and ambitious student and a more confident leader. I am excited to be the School Captain as it is an important role in the school both in its leadership aspects and the privilege and responsibility that accompanies the role. I take seriously the responsibility to represent the students both fairly and enthusiastically. The community and future of Brunswick is important to me and I’m ready to dive in with refreshing and fun ideas for the year. The students and teachers at Brunswick have a very proud attitude and my aim this year is to continue spreading the enthusiasm and school spirit that makes Brunswick so great.

Mimi Awad

Social Justice Captains

Mallory and I are really excited to take on the important leadership role as Social Justice Captains. Many issues and forms of social politics and justice are hugely important to us. The role also complements my part in the 2013 World Challenge team that will see over thirty of our students travel to Africa for a month at the end of the year. As well as the usual travelling and sight-seeing, we will be undertaking a project to assist an African community. Throughout the year I look forward to learning about social justice and social action, along with informing and teaching others about important issues globally and locally. Mallory and I will aim to take on many fundraisers inside and outside of school, focusing our efforts to the people or organisations that need it the most. Finally, anyone who wants to get involved and help out is more than welcome!

Joey Conroy

This year I have been lucky enough to be appointed to the role of co-Social Justice Captain. I have always been interested in social justice, but had never found a way to explore it to the level I wanted. Overall what I have found in my first few weeks in this role, is that social justice as a whole affects everyone, from whether we are feeling ignored or unheard in a workplace, to much broader topics such as human rights. My goal as Co-Social Justice Captain is to highlight and celebrate equality throughout my school and to educate and teach others about issues that our broader society faces. I am so grateful to be given this opportunity, and to share this role with Joey Conroy. Together we are going to form a passionate and dedicated social JUSTICE LEAGUE, and eventually change the world one step at a time!

Mallory Hamid
My name is Helena Kakoliris, and I am a Peer Support Captain for 2013. In 2012, I was a Peer Support Leader. This role shared among a team of 20 year 10 students involved working with year 7 students to assist them to feel more comfortable in their first year of high school. We created and played lots of different activities and games to help the students get to know each other, and to form bonds that they will hopefully keep throughout their high school years to come. I am particularly excited to start working with the year sevens more closely this year because it is so much fun but also because it is such important work. I want to make it as easy as possible for them and make their first experience here rewarding. I would also like to learn from the other students in our 2013 Student Leadership Team.

Helena Kakoliris

I moved to Brunswick Secondary College at the beginning of 2010, settling down in F-Block as a junior year 9. I wasn’t the brightest kid at the time and I made some bad decisions regarding the company that I kept and the things I did. However, in the following years, I committed myself to making immense changes in my attitude and performance in education and have made a lot of progress. I’m extremely excited for what we have ahead of us as a student leadership team. It’s going to be such a big year for Brunswick Secondary College. I look forward to working with the rest of the captains of the schools to help create a better experience for every student at Brunswick Secondary College and help each student to work towards achieving their dream. As a School Community Captain, I aim to achieve a more connected school community, enabling students to have as much support and as many resources as possible, and to encourage them to work harder throughout their journey to success.

Younis Yehia

In 2012 I was one of Peer Support Leaders, and basically our responsibility was to help the year 7s settle in and make the year as positive an experience as possible. We went into the classroom environment and ran activities with the younger students. We played ‘getting to know you’ games and facilitated group and class discussion.

At the start of this year, we also assisted the future Peer Support Leaders to run activities on Orientation Day.

I’m really looking forward to the chance to work with new people and be on the SRC, and I’m also really excited to get a chance to work with the younger year levels again.

My goal is to make the Peer Support program a better one; to have the older year levels be interacting more and more with the younger students. I also aim to be a very positive and active member of the SRC contributing and helping out anywhere I can.

Ellen Campion

It’s hard to say what contributed to my selection as Sport Captain but in the past I have done some leadership roles for Brunswick, for example in year 8 I went to a local primary school to talk to the students about high school and BSC. I have also had coaching roles in junior inter school sports and helped Sports Coordinators on sport days. Captaining a football team was one of my first experiences in a sport leadership role.

I also wanted to do a different leadership role than what people at school would have expected. It is great to represent the thing I am most passionate about; sport.

I’m looking forward to helping Mr Nolan promote sport throughout the school and help manage sport days and also presenting my ideas to the sport department. In 2013, it is my aim to have more students participating in sport and I look forward to helping behind the scenes, gaining experience and learning new things revolving around sport.

Will Zaghis

Hi I’m Ella and I’m one of the 2013 Sport Captains. I am really thrilled for the year ahead of us and all the new exciting things coming out the BSC sport community. I have been playing soccer at the Brunswick Zebras for 6 years! William and I have many plans, but our main plan is to strengthen and widen the sports community and get more involvement from the junior year levels. We are also looking at really promoting the new House Colours!

Ella Fusca
As a performer, I have sung and danced outside of school, working on dramatic elements to extend my capabilities. The time management involved in balancing my dance commitments with study has helped equip me for the role of Performing Arts Captain. Being involved in the Rock Eisteddfods has taught me the importance of the performing arts and how they promote a sense of community and team work.

Having prior experience in being part of a leadership team I’ve been given opportunities to instruct groups in technical aspects of performing and I think this too has prepared me well for the coming year. I’m excited about our upcoming musical, Fame. It will be Brunswick’s first ever musical and I know with Tracie’s help it will be a wonderful show that won’t only showcase our talent at Brunswick, but also build a really strong community of friends spanning different year levels and teachers.

For 2013 I want to be able to help promote the arts to as many people as I can and hopefully help other students discover their own talents. I want everyone to be a part of an activity or program that will enrich their experience at Brunswick, and I know our musical has that capability. I am so passionate about performing, and know from first-hand experience how energised and confident someone can feel when they’re on that stage. If I can help or be part of something that brings that feeling to Brunswick’s students, I will definitely feel that I have achieved more than enough for 2013.

Amelia Constable
Hello! For those who don't know me, my name is Larissa Li, and I am the Music Captain for 2013. I am very excited and honoured to be appointed this role as I am very passionate about music and getting students to become more involved in our school community. Since I was two years old, I have been singing for fun and enjoyment. Music has always been part of my life and will be for many years to come. I have always been an active participant in the music community here at Brunswick Secondary College and it has led me to pursue opportunities which I didn’t foresee.

It is for this reason that I applied for the position of Music Captain, to ensure that other students, junior and senior, can live out their potential and have experiences just like mine. I also felt that by being Music Captain, I could give back to the school community. I am looking forward to helping coordinate the many music events which are held by Brunswick Secondary College. I hope to bring the music department closer and to bring the best out of every student. I urge those who aren't currently involved in the music program to get involved, whether it is through instrumental music, the music elective or even in the backstage crew, because it is a thriving learning environment. I am also looking forward to working with the Performing Arts Committee on Brunswick Secondary College’s first musical!

On a final note, I would especially like to welcome the year seven students and their families to Brunswick Secondary College and I hope to see you at our music events!

Larissa Li

My name is Maggie and I'm in year 11. This year I am the public speaking and debating captain. I've been a debater since year seven and I was the public speaking captain last year, so it's something that I'm really passionate about and want to promote in the school community. This year, I'm really excited about the Brunswick Chatterbox. Started last year, this is our in-school public speaking competition, and for a first time we got a really good turnout last year of both entrants and audience. In 2013, I hope to make it even bigger and better. I hope some of last year's fantastic entrants will not only help to promote public speaking within our school but also represent us in the inter-school speaking competitions.

I also want debating to become bigger in 2013. While it may not be a sport as such, debating provides just as much a sense of teamwork and healthy competition, as well as requiring just as much courage and skill.

I hope that in addition to a greater amount of students becoming involved, we can also involve the wider school community in debating through in-school debates, the always fun student-teacher debate, and inviting all to come along and watch our teams compete. I look forward to seeing many of you involved in public speaking and debating at Brunswick in the year ahead.

Maggie O'Shea

On Tuesday the 19th of February we, Kim Hickman, Olivia Penman, Bridget Pennington and Bellana Shrestha, had the opportunity to represent Brunswick Secondary College in interschool Tennis. We played Melbourne Girls College. We were all very excited to play the reputable Melbourne Girls team and were even more excited after winning against Melbourne Girls and advancing to the next round of competition. It is a very humbling feeling to be able to work together as a team and achieve this for ourselves and our school.

The VCAL and Chinese Captains have only been appointed recently. They will introduce themselves in the next Brunswick Star. Georgia, the Arts Captain, introduces herself in this edition in the feature on last year’s Art and Design Exhibition.
Junior School 2013

2013 has been a start unlike any other in recent times. It has not been only the year 7 students who have had to adjust to a new timetable and bell times for the day. With the introduction of the 4 period day all students have had to make an adjustment. Surprisingly, this adjustment has been smooth and immediate.

By the second day, it felt as if we had never known anything different. Year 7 students began with a healthy blend of nervousness and eagerness. There were lockers to contend with and combinations locks to grapple with. Then of course there was the timetable to comprehend, with different classrooms to find and codes to decipher. And yet, our capable group of 175 students managed to take this in their stride. With a few questions and directions and much support from friendly staff and students, our newcomers are handling the complexities of high school as if they have been with us for months.

Year 9 students, now the seniors of junior school, have also made a similar transformation. They have had greater choice in their subject selection and are beginning to consider their options for careers. The My Life Career Program delivered to them during the year is aimed at giving them a taste of different careers, to explore various occupations and to introduce the skills required to search and apply for a year 10 work experience placement. The program involves various guest speakers coming along and briefly chatting about their job, what’s involved, where the job can lead and what personal qualities someone might need to do this type of work. We want students to see the connection between school and work, how the subjects they study at school assist in various jobs today. It is also valuable for students to begin to identify their interests. This makes selecting subjects for year 10 and VCE much easier.

At each year level, there are innumerable exciting opportunities. At Brunswick SC, we provide not only a strong academic curriculum, but a large range of co-curricular programmes to extend students’ skills. We believe there is something for everyone amongst these. Activities available to students at the college. Please encourage your child to take advantage of the opportunities to develop and extend their learning and connection with the school community through active participation in an activity of interest to them.

Senior School 2013

Welcome to the school year for all continuing and new students and families. It has been really wonderful seeing students back again at school ready to take on their new year level and determined to make a success of all the challenges and opportunities the year will bring.

The school has adjusted to the new four period day and the time changes this has brought with remarkable ease. The change has decreased overall movement during the day and therefore ‘wasted’ time, and increased the number of times students have had a class in a week. There are real benefits for senior students with this increased contact time with teachers, and it has also meant an end to the two week timetable with its attendant confusions.

We are looking to our senior students in 2013 to be positive role models for Years 7 to 9 and leaders of the school in all they do. Older students are often surprised at how much influence they have on the younger year levels. The values they hold, demonstrated through their actions, have a very real impact on the thinking and behaviour of our younger students.

In the whole group year level sessions we are having with senior students to start the year, students are being asked to focus on their goals for the year and the things that will assist them to reach these. Our teachers are aware of how important they may be in the lives of our students, and that students are observing and interpreting all that we do and say. Together with families, the people in our schools are major influences in the lives of our children.

Our influence will be greater, or more positive, when our school community and our home community share similar values, share high but realistic expectations and both convey the same sense of optimism. You will have seen on the Compass Newsfeed an item describing the large and diverse range of Co-curricular activities available to students at the college. There truly is something for everyone amongst these. Please encourage your child to take advantage of the opportunity to develop and extend their learning and connection with the school community through active participation in an activity of interest to them.

Again I warmly welcome all families to the school year, and look forward to another great year learning together as proud and valued members of our Brunswick Secondary College community.
VCE High Achievers 2012

Assistant Principal’s Award
Giuliana Leslie

The Assistant Principal Award is given to a student who demonstrates one or more of the school values to a very high level.
Assistant Principal Heather Secomb chose Giuliana Leslie as the 2012 recipient of this award. Giuliana is a student who showed persistence, responsibility and achievement in a year of great personal challenge. For the teachers who taught her in Year 12 or in earlier years, it was a privilege and reward to hear Giuliana’s words of appreciation. For all students who are coping with difficult circumstances, Giuliana’s words and outlook give hope and encouragement. This year Giuliana is looking forward to studying an Environment Degree at RMIT University in the city.

At the beginning of Year 12 my mum was diagnosed with cancer and initially before we got the 1st results back, we were unsure of her future. The last thing I wanted to think about was VCE. However, I realised that not only did I have my own future to face, but I needed to be strong for my mum. My one and only goal last year was to get into my chosen university course, but that can become extremely difficult when faced with so much happening outside of the classroom. I coped with the support of the amazing staff here at Brunswick. Not only were they helpful with accommodating my needs, but they also made me feel comfortable doing so.

Sometimes there’s a lot happening at home, any of us can be in this position. Last year was tough but I got through it and managed to score well enough to get into my course. This is something I couldn’t have done without the incredible support of the staff, so if you have a problem, turn to those who know how to help you.

Assistant Principal, Heather Secomb presented Giuliana with her College Dux 2012 award.

Daffyd Lewis Scholarship
Tony Phan

Daffyd Lewis was a Welsh Immigrant who left a trust to be used to fund scholarships for boys who may not otherwise be able to pursue tertiary studies. In 2012, we were delighted when Andy Farah became Brunswick’s first Daffyd Lewis scholar. In 2013, we are doubly thrilled to have another BSC student, Tony Phan, receive a Daffyd Lewis Scholarship.

In 2013, Tony is studying his preferred course, civil engineering at RMIT. His ambition to become a civil engineer stems back to childhood where he recalls feeling mesmerised by large buildings’ ability to stand without falling over. This led to a fascination with Science and Mathematics that deepened throughout secondary school. When asked about the project he would most like to work on in the future, Tony said a sports stadium. He outlined his love of the MCG, the complexity of its layers and structures and its function in bringing together so many different people in the one building each week for the common purpose of supporting their team.

“An important lesson I learnt was effective study, don’t waste your time doing every question of every chapter, concentrate on the stuff you need to work hardest on and make sure the ideas of each topic are clear inside your head. Equally important, ask questions all the time. The person who asks a question is ignorant for five minutes, the ones who don’t ask questions are ignorant forever. Do the things you want to do in life, take every opportunity as it comes. I signed up for this scholarship not expecting much. I remember saying to my good friend, ‘Wouldn’t hurt to try.’ To get an interview alone was already far more than I expected. And a week to prepare. Given the opportunity to become a Daffyd Lewis scholar was a great honour.

I did everything I could to make a good impression at that interview. Now having this scholarship, I will receive significant financial support each year to help me through university studies. There isn’t much more I could ask for. My advice- Sign up for any scholarship or opportunity you can. Don’t be scared you might not get it, it can’t hurt to try.”

Assistant Principal’s Award
Giuliana Leslie

Giuliana Leslie as the 2012 recipient of this award. Giuliana is a student who showed persistence, responsibility and achievement in a year of great personal challenge. For the teachers who taught her in Year 12 or in earlier years, it was a privilege and reward to hear Giuliana’s words of appreciation. For all students who are coping with difficult circumstances, Giuliana’s words and outlook give hope and encouragement. This year Giuliana is looking forward to studying an Environment Degree at RMIT University in the city.

At the beginning of Year 12 my mum was diagnosed with cancer and initially before we got the 1st results back, we were unsure of her future. The last thing I wanted to think about was VCE. However, I realised that not only did I have my own future to face, but I needed to be strong for my mum. My one and only goal last year was to get into my chosen university course, but that can become extremely difficult when faced with so much happening outside of the classroom. I coped with the support of the amazing staff here at Brunswick. Not only were they helpful with accommodating my needs, but they also made me feel comfortable doing so.

Sometimes there’s a lot happening at home, any of us can be in this position. Last year was tough but I got through it and managed to score well enough to get into my course. This is something I couldn’t have done without the incredible support of the staff, so if you have a problem, turn to those who know how to help you.

Assistant Principal, Heather Secomb presented Giuliana with her College Dux 2012 award.

Daffyd Lewis Scholarship
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Daniel Leggieri

Daniel is a most deserving recipient of the 2012 School Values Award. In introducing Daniel at the assembly, Michael Bartley (his Year 12 Coordinator in 2012) emphasised the very humble and ordinary way that Daniel went about his role as a student at BSC, describing how he generously shared his talent in art and design and was known by all to be a supportive student and friend. Daniel exemplifies all six Brunswick Secondary College values—persistence, responsibility, respect, teamwork, excellence and achievement. His speech, printed in full here, demonstrates his courage and appreciation.

I’m here today to talk to you about my goals, those I have achieved and the ones I’m still trying to, as well as the journey I have undergone the past few years together with the one which is ahead.

Towards the end of Year 10 to the start of Year 11 were the scariest moments of my life. To the majority of you who don’t know my story, I was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2010. In January the next year, I had surgery to remove most of the tumour. I recovered rather quickly and was back at school within 4 weeks. To see my friends and to get back into school was great, but there was still a long road to recovery. Fortunately for me I had the best family support as well as some of the most understanding teachers who helped me make a decision about me continuing my schooling.

This school has every skill for you to achieve your potential in any path you take in life. This is the lesson I have learnt. The school is here to support you and it is up to you to use this time wisely. It doesn’t matter if you are doing VCAL or VCE and more importantly, it doesn’t matter what your friends or anyone else think. This is another lesson of many I have learnt. In life there are going to be people who tell you ‘No, you can’t’ or ‘That’s impossible.’ There are going to be people who try and bring you down don’t let them get the better of you.

Towards the end of year 11 I was facing my fear yet again. My tumour had started to grow and I was going to have to have surgery again. And once again I needed to make my decision about schooling, whether or not I continue with VCE or VCAL, or simply drop out. Mr Bartley helped me make this important decision. I also had a lot of encouragement from my friends. I did not go through with surgery the second time.

By the start of a new year, 2012, I was in VCAL and had a VET course at Northland secondary College studying Visual Arts and contemporary craft. The year flew. I had 3 art exposes where some of my pieces of art were presented to the public. I was in a community program to help host and create the National Youth Week with the year 12 VCAL students at Brunswick. The year was great, helping others, working with people and meeting new people.

There was laughter, there was sadness and there was fear, but more importantly there was happiness through the highs and lows.

With anything you do in life, always think positive and be positive. I’m taking this year off schooling. I will try my own things, maybe get a job. I want to start creating t-shirts and designs. Don’t ever give up on something because it’s too hard. Don’t let anyone ever tell you can’t that’s impossible and don’t be afraid to ask for help and follow your dreams. As for my health it’s still a battle I’m fighting.’

Siritrin Suwanavakkup

Siritrin is the recipient of the 2012 Principal’s Award. The Award recognises the achievements of a student who has exceeded expected progress academically while also contributing to the school community. Siritrin was overseas at the time of the assembly. She will be profiled in a future Brunswick Star. In 2013 she will study Science at the University of Melbourne.

Principal’s Award

Siritrin Suwantevakup

Principal’s Award

Siritrin Suwantevakup

Principal’s Award

Siritrin Suwantevakup
Former students share their memories of school and their lives after Brunswick Secondary College.

To our current students they offer an inspiring quote and advice for the future. Their stories show that the career you choose can be different to what you may have imagined yourself doing when you were at school and that your most important goal remains finding the work or study options that you love.

**Life beyond Brunswick**

**Rebecca Schot-Guppy**
Graduated: 2008
Favourite subject(s): Chemistry and Physical Education
Favourite memory of BSC: My two favourite memories of BSC are the fun that we had at Bushwacked Camps in Year 9 especially our trip to Wilsons Prom that included friends, swimming, hiking, playing on the beach at dusk, incredible views and a broken bus. The other is our Year 12 formal with everyone having a great time in beautiful dresses and seeing the diverse community that we had, come together in such a special night for all.
An important lesson learned at BSC: I learnt that it is important to take every opportunity that comes your way and also the value and importance of respect, diversity, community and culture not only in your learning but for your journey through life.
My life beyond BSC: I am now doing my Second Degree at the University of Sydney studying postgraduate Law after completing a Bachelor of Biomedicine at The University of Melbourne. After starting my first degree four years ago I would never have imagined that I would now be living away from home in another city, with no family, to Study a Law degree. My strength and passion throughout high school had always been the science stream. I still am fascinated by sports science and love studying about the body but during my first degree, I found a love for the legal side of Health and Policy Development. I look forward to continuing my second year of Law in Sydney this year and furthering my legal skill set.
A favourite quote: ‘Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment’ - Buddha
My best advice to current students: Ask as many questions as you need to understand the material and do as many practice papers as you can find (even trawl through previous coursework as some questions are still relevant!)

**Nilay Gamze Yalcin**
Graduated: 2005
Year 12 Subjects: English, Math Methods, Math Specialist, Chemistry, Physics, Philosophy
Favourite subject(s): Physics, Philosophy
Favourite memory of BSC: Drama class in Year 9 where we put on student-led productions together with our heated philosophy discussions in class In English and Humanities
An important lesson learned at BSC: Take initiative. If there’s something you really want to do ask your teachers and fellow students for their advice and help. If you convince people they’re more than willing to help you.
For example, I was passionate about Philosophy and Physics. With the help of my teachers and fellow students I was fortunate to be involved in many memorable philosophy discussions and events.
When I was in Year 12, I was able to complete 2 university-level physics subjects through having done Early Start Physics at Brunswick and the University of Melbourne Enhancement Program.
My life beyond BSC: I studied Biomedical Science at University of Melbourne then went on to do Medicine at Monash University, which I finished in 2012. Currently I’m doing my internship at the Northern Hospital.
A favourite quote: ‘The unexamined life is not worth living’ - Socrates
My best advice to current students: The best way to know you’re pushing your limits is to look back and see a few massive failures. If you haven’t failed at some stage in your life you’re not aiming high enough.
Ray Zhang
Graduated: 2002
Year 12 Subjects: English, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths, Physics, Chemistry
Favourite subject: Chemistry with Simon Egan
Favourite memory of BSC: The people I met—teachers and students
An important lesson learned at BSC: It's never too late to get your act together and change for the better. The desire to improve has to come from within but never be afraid to ask for help. Being successful academically offers a world of opportunities beyond one's imagination.
My life beyond BSC: After struggling through year 10 with a lack of focus, I turned things around by giving it my all throughout VCE. It wasn't easy but getting into my course of choice at Melbourne Uni made it all worthwhile. Having the solid foundation built at BSC, I graduated with a first class honours average in Engineering/Science at Melbourne Uni which included a semester on scholarship at University College London. Upon completing my studies I started work as a Business Analyst at Deloitte (a large corporate firm) and now after being across various sectors from my own restaurant in Flinders Lane, Tazio. It offers me an endless channel for creativity and freedom.
A favourite quote: 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step'
My best advice to current students: Study hard, stay healthy and keep positive. Practice papers as you can find (even trawl through previous coursework as some questions are still relevant!)

Shang Wang
Graduated: 2005
Year 12 Subject: English, Chinese 2nd language, Math Methods, Chemistry, Biology, Specialist Maths.
Favourite subject(s): Biology, Chemistry and Math Methods.
Favourite memory of BSC: The Year 11 snow trip to Mount Buller. We had a great time learning how to ski with all our friends around in the day and then spent the evening playing board games till 3 in the morning in our cabin.
An important lesson I learned at BSC: Be open to new ideas and try new things. Even if you're not too comfortable with them at first, you might find you will enjoy these new experiences very much.
My life beyond BSC: I attended Monash University studying Medicinal Chemistry down in Clayton. I was always interested in chemistry and it was my strongest subject so I thought having a career as a chemist would be a great idea. Four years went by studying and conducting countless experiments.
My most significant year was my final year where I completed an Honour year in chemistry. This meant I was conducting my own research completing a mini thesis at university. It gave me an insight to what a career in the research field was like. It was an important experience as I realised that working in a lab and having to write countless experimental reports was not what I seemed to enjoy most. Throughout my university days I was tutoring high school students as a part-time job and I enjoyed it very much. I particularly enjoy the moments when students understand a concept because of your teaching. I decided that I should pursue something I would find rewarding as a career choice and hence, here I am teaching at my old high school. The choice to come back to Brunswick wasn't at all hard as I wanted to give back to the school that taught me the skills I needed to face and succeed in the world.
A favourite quote: 'Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago' - Warren Buffett.
My best advice to current students: Don't be lazy—work hard and you will be rewarded. Find your passion and do what you must to make it a reality.
The 2012 Italian Study Tour 23 left for Italy on the 24th of September arriving the next day feeling excited and eager despite a long and exhausting flight. We spent five nights in the capital city of Rome.

We visited many famous sites and buildings including; The Colosseum, The Roman Forum and The Pantheon. We also visited the Vatican, which is actually its own separate country with its own currency, passport and has a population of about 700.

After Rome we headed down the coast to Pompeii. It was amazingly preserved. About 30% of Pompeii is still buried in-case Vesuvius erupts again. And from there we headed to the nearby town of Sorrento (No, not the one on the Mornington Peninsula). We went to a pizza making class and learned how to make pizza dough. Some of the group went down to the beach so people could go swimming. In the end eight people went in. Going swimming will now be part of the Italian itinerary on future trips. You can thank Michael Cameron who insisted on continuing the tradition his brother Matthew started. Then it was off to Florence, famous for the cathedral known as ‘Il Duomo’ or the dome (for obvious reasons). In total we did 16 hours of language lessons, completed over four days. We headed out to Pisa (an hour by train) to see the famous leaning tower. Climbing it was really hard on the brain! Very close to our hotel was L’Accademia, home of David. We also visited the famous Uffizi Gallery.

The next and final stop on our tour was Venice. What people don’t seem to realise is that Venice is over 100 separate isands contacted by over 400 bridges. We visited a little shop named Ca’ De Sol or House of the Sun. We learnt how Venetian Masks are made. In total the group must have spent nearly 5,000 eurol (the shop owner must love us!) Then it was a ride on the iconic gondolas (I started pronouncing them gon-do-la).

After a day of walking around it was time, for some, to say an emotional farewell to Italy and the people staying on with friends and family to continue to experience the magic of Italy.

Jesse Cuthbert
Junior Debating Term 4 2012

In semester 2 2012, Brunswick hosted the regional Debating Association of Victoria junior debating competition, which saw five different schools come to Brunswick to participate in the introductory program for year 7 and 8 students.

This junior program welcomes students to the wonderful world of debating through interactive information sessions that explain the rules, guidelines and all the handy tips needed to succeed. The program also provided an opportunity for students to debate against other schools, with topics including:

- 'That the Olympic games are more trouble than they are worth',
- 'That we should ban energy drinks',
- 'That there should be a minimum age for mobile phone usage'.

Brunswick had two teams that not only debated in a sophisticated manner, but worked well as team members, spoke with passion and persuasion, and acted as perfect hosts to the other schools participating in the debates.

Moreover, with 7 out of 9 victories over the duration of the competition, it is clear that you don’t want to get into an argument with these debaters! Congratulations to Joe Winkler, Angus Ballinger, Oskar Summers Dixon, Sasha Gillies-Lekakis, Lynn Lin, Iris Shuttleworth, Cecilia Gu, Taylor Duggan, Emma Hamza and Somaya Moosajee for representing the school in an impeccable manner.

Lara Alexander
Debating Coordinator

Student Recounts

On Wednesday the 12th of November, the junior debating team had their first debate. After many weeks of preparation, the night finally came and we were feeling nervous, but confident. We had been practicing for many weeks, had lots of help from the senior debaters and Mr. Alexander, and had put a lot of effort into speeches. We practiced reading them out, writing rebuttals and, most importantly where to sit.

Our two debating teams walked into their allocated rooms, and sat at the front. The first debating team consisted of Sasha, Somaya and Taylor, with Angus and Oscar as researchers. The second team was the team I was in, along with Lynn and Iris, as first and second speakers, and Cecelia as our researcher. We debated against Glenroy College, who made some very good arguments and put up a great fight. The final score was three points in our favour. The first team also did very well against Antonine College winning by four points.

We were very proud of ourselves afterwards and are looking forward to continuing debating.

Wendy, Elise, William and I were fortunate enough to represent Brunswick Secondary College on the 11th of November for the Debaters Association of Victoria British Debating. When you hear the word ‘debating’ you automatically think ‘expressing your opinion… listening to the other team… blah blah blah,’ well you’re only unfortunately 50% correct.

Debating involves developing public speaking skills, encouraging young people to express their opinions, improving on-the-spot thinking skills, all while in a competition. However, there is also always lots of laughter and friendship. Get excited… BUT! British Debating? It is just so different to traditional debating! It’s hard to describe the exhilarating feeling when participating.

How about this: ever wanted to tell the opposition “shhh… be quiet”? Well here is your chance. Ever wanted to tell the opposition “sit down” or “not now” or even better, wave them off with your hand? Well, this is all legitimate and welcomed in British Debating.

British Debating follows the British parliamentary style of debating where two groups of two debate against another two groups of two. Participants are required to respond to ‘on-the-spot’ questions and work with different individuals from different schools.

British Debating is a polite and funny way of debating. It follows many of the concepts of normal debating but allows certain forms of behaviour (as mentioned before). It is basically the art of persuasion combined with humour. Don’t worry, it isn’t violent.

We had such a memorable day starting with training and demonstrations at 9am, followed by lunch, afternoon tea and three rounds of addictive British debating, where we laughed and made lots of new friends. WE LOVE BRITISH DEBATING!!!

Dessi Lin
Year 8 in 2012
The art program at Brunswick is spectacular. We have a great team of teachers who are dedicated to helping the students achieve the most they can at BSC. This talent and dedication was never clearer than at the 2012 Art and Design exhibition. The exhibition gave art students from Year 7-12 the opportunity to explore all kinds of medium including woodwork, textiles, fine art, visual communication and design, digital image making, jewelry and ceramics. Our teachers truly allow each student to develop and excel at their chosen art subject and to create amazing works that make us proud to know that we have achieved our best. Featured is a small sample from the 2012 Art and Design Exhibition held in November last year. I am already looking forward to the 2013 Exhibition in Term 4 this year and hope to see you there.
2012 Art & Design Exhibition cont..
Pancake Day
On the morning of Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, the student leadership team happily sacrificed several hours of their precious sleep to prepare a breakfast meeting together in order to have a chance to spend some quality time together to discuss the year ahead. They also invited their fabulous teacher leadership team, to join them for pancakes cooked by the student leaders.

We conducted a small activity which enabled each leader to gain a sense of the leadership role they possess. We ended the morning with Ms. Tellefson, giving us all some words of advice and motivation to keep us going.

In 2013 there will be many opportunities for the teacher and student leadership teams to work together.

Our New Bike Shed
After a year of planning and consultation, BSC’s stand out new and blue Bike Shed was constructed over the school holidays. Fortunately it was finished on the day before school resumed for students. Spacious and new, there is ample room for student and staff bikes. Landscaping of the nearby area is planned for when the weather cools sufficiently to plant.

Thank you to Peter Allan, 2012 School Council Vice President, Ms. Heather Sembori, Assistant Principal Year 10-12 and Maintenance Manager, John Scott for their hard work and planning. Thanks also to my predecessors as Environment Captain, Cassie and Claudia. We are pleased at Brunswick to have so many students and teachers ride to school. Now we can have even more.

Nikil Petropoulos 2013 Environment Captain

Having fun learning Chinese

I really enjoyed teaching the first after school class for Year 7 - 6 students that we have held at Brunswick Secondary College for this year. Students were enthusiastic about learning their first Chinese words and participating in Chinese crafts including making a paper lantern. The class is part of Brunswick’s Specialist School Mandarin Program. It is held from 4:00-5:00pm on Thursdays. There are still some vacancies. Parents of interested Year 7 - 6 students can book by contacting the office on 9387 6133 or email: brunswick.sci@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Similarly I enjoyed being a part of Brunswick’s first Chinese Conversation Club.

This co-curricular activity is held every Thursday at lunchtime. All students of Chinese, from Year 7-11 are very welcome to come along and practise their Chinese conversation in a friendly and relaxed environment.

In our first session we talked about how Chinese New Year was celebrated and selected selections from the New Year’s Gala. The Chinese Conversation class is a wonderful intercultural learning opportunity and experience. Come along and see this for yourself.

Jing Chen
Chinese Teacher

COGS

For many years, year 12 has been known as the year of pressure and panic. Although the time ahead of us seems stressful, it is always helpful to know there are people behind you along the way. The main focus of Brunswick Secondary’s new COGS (Community Opportunities Growth Success) program which operates at every year level is to give us the support and skills we need to be both a successful student and good person. COGS is about more than just academic learning.

As year 12 COGS, the emphasis is on the importance of teamwork throughout our year. During our 72 minute sessions we are broken up into small groups and set tasks that involve corporation and communication among the team members. These sessions push us to socialise with our entire year group, while giving us a break from our normal educational structure. I believe the sessions are providing us, as year twelves, with an immense sense of solidarity and community, and it is this uniting feeling of teamwork that will allow the 2013 year 12s to encourage each other to succeed to our highest potential.

Malory Hamid
Year 12

Science Experience

On the 15th-17th of January, I was given an amazing opportunity by my science teacher Ms O’Brien to go and discover science at Monash University in both new exciting and practical ways. It was really interesting and quite fulfilling.

When we first arrived, we were assigned groups. I was a Frog! Each group had two staff members assigned from the ‘Young Scientists of Australia’ program who we liked to call ‘Staffies.’ These were the people who would ultimately guide us around the campus and help us when we got stuck. During these three days I was able to make new friends and meet a lot of people from different areas who also shared my passion and interest in science. On the first day we were given an introduction by the head of Science at Monash. We also had a science quiz which was incredible fun. I ended up doing ‘Sangram’ in front of about 100 people which was hilarious.

My highlights of the experience were probably seeing a glow in the dark fish, holding a meteorite and having the privilege of speaking to one of the ladies who is on the science team experimenting with gangue fever. The whole Science Experience was very fulfilling and I am incredibly grateful to the Rotary club of Brunswick for sponsoring me and giving me this opportunity.

I highly recommend this program to anyone interested in science. The Science experience does not disappoint. It has something for everyone whether you are interested in Biology, Chemistry, Physics or all three. If you are in Year 9 and even a little interested, you should talk to your Science teacher and let them know you would like to be considered to apply.

Ashleigh Surr
Year 10

In January, I was very fortunate to be involved in a three day University of Melbourne event called the ‘Science Experience’ Roughly 100 students participated in the event all from other schools and different parts of Victoria. I met a guy, Sam, who lived 4 hours away. I was interested to learn how much the Science Experience emphasises teamwork. The first activity we did was a group exercise which involved protecting an egg from cracking.

Other exercises we participated in included a Maths race, naming various rocks and categorising them, optometry testing and Physics based carnival. There were many more scientific experiences and activities. These increased in intensity as the program progressed. We covered a lot of different fields of science including Microbiology, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Genetics, Geology and Biology. The event was really fun and I actually learnt a lot.

All in all I really enjoyed my time at Melbourne University. It was a fun filled three days in which I made lots of friends and learnt some interesting science. I am very grateful to the Rotary Club of Brunswick for sponsoring Ashleigh and I to do this program.

Alex Luisetto
Year 10

Year 7 Lunchtime Activities

Every Tuesday and Thursday year 7 students are invited to F2 to eat their lunch, play games and make new friends. We also invite members from the senior SRC who are in the same position as you. You get to meet new friends that you normally wouldn’t meet.

Belle ARBUS
‘It’s really fun, heaps of games all in one room that is away from everyone else. When it’s hot outside it’s cool inside, and when it’s cool outside its warm. I really like it.’

Lunch (Nike) TRIM

Mallory Hamid
Year 12

Year 10

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In January, I was very fortunate to be involved in a three day University of Melbourne event called the ‘Science Experience’ Roughly 100 students participated in the event all from different schools and different parts of Victoria. I met a guy, Sam, who lived 4 hours away. I was interested to learn how much the Science Experience emphasises teamwork. The first activity we did was a group exercise which involved protecting an egg from cracking.

Other exercises we participated in included a Maths race, naming various rocks and categorising them, optometry testing and Physics based carnival. There were many more scientific experiences and activities. These increased in intensity as the program progressed. We covered a lot of different fields of science including Microbiology, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Genetics, Geology and Biology. The event was really fun and I actually learnt a lot.

All in all I really enjoyed my time at Melbourne University. It was a fun filled three days in which I made lots of friends and learnt some interesting science. I am very grateful to the Rotary Club of Brunswick for sponsoring Ashleigh and I to do this program.

Alex Luisetto
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