We are already at the end of Term 1 and what a term it has been. We have been delighted with the many emails and comments from parents and students about how well students have settled into the college and how much they enjoy being at NCAT. Thank you for the feedback. There have been excursions and incursions and lots of activities around the college. We also have new elected student leaders. I congratulate them and look forward to working with them.

The term has ended on a high with the March Madness Concert last week, the Certificate IV students putting on a lunchtime performance this week and with Joseph Buhajiar with his band, Freak & the Fat Cats made up of fellow NCAT students, Ben Koschade and Shannan Vinen bringing the audience at the Melbourne Recital Centre to their feet with their brilliant performance of Red House by Jimi Hendrix as part of the VCE Top Cats. (See photo opposite)

Parent Teacher Student Conference Afternoon
On the 24th March we had Parent Teacher Student Conferences providing all students and parents with a report on how students are going and what they can do to improve and be successful. It is vital that students work hard, make up any missed work and attend all classes so they can achieve their full potential and be successful. If you were unable to attend and have any concerns, please contact your child’s Form teacher or Sub School Leader to make an appointment.

Year 10 Information Evening for Prospective 2016 students
The college is holding an information evening for parents of prospective Year 10 students on the 12th May from 6pm to 7:45pm. A number of current Year 10 students will be involved in showcasing what goes on at NCAT. If you know parents of Year 9 students who are looking for a college for their child which provides the range of programs and pathways that NCAT offers in the arts, trades and technologies, and sport and fitness then please make them aware of the event.

Parent Representatives on the College Council
As we had the same number of nominations as there were positions, there was no need for elections. The following parents have been appointed to the NCAT College Council and I thank them for serving on Council.
2 Year term: Elizabeth Serpell, Leigh Collins and Robert Webb who have children in Year 10.
1 Year term: Anastasia Istinis whose child is in Yr 10, and Anna Bortoli and Rita Brassington whose children are in Yr 12 and who have been on Council since their children started in Yr 10.

New Smoking Bans at School Entrances
As you are all aware, for many years now, government regulations forbid anyone smoking on school grounds or in cars parked on the school grounds. From the 13th April a new ban comes into practice for all schools in Victoria and for all government building. The new regulations ban any smoking within four metres of an entrance. The ban also applies to any childcare centre and kindergarten.

We have included the notice sent to all schools on the last page of this newsletter. Please read it and familiarise yourself with it. Local Council officers have been given the power to fine those smoking within four metres of a school entrance. At NCAT any smoking of any kind is banned along the front of the college in Murray Road, and only post-Year 12 students are allowed to smoke off site.

I hope students and staff have a safe and refreshing break and come back ready to have a very successful Term 2.

Raffaela Galati-Brown
PRINCIPAL
Multimedia Students Showcase Their Skills

Because of our outstanding reputation for innovation and excellence in Multimedia, NCAT was invited by the Department of Education and Training to help document a conference on 26th and 27th of February for their Regional Services Group. This was a conference for all the key leaders and managers within the Department of Education from the Minister and Secretary for Education through to the Regional Managers and Senior Advisors and featured international speakers.

We selected two Multimedia students, Denis KRAJNC and Neve HILL, to photograph and interview participants and video parts of the event.

A small video of their work was put together overnight and played at the closing of the conferences where the students received a fantastic applause and thank you from the participants.

Thanks to Denis and Neve who were great ambassadors for our college - very professional and did a great job!

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

27th March    NCAT Choir Performance at the Café
13th April     Term 2 Starts
16th April     VicSRC Regional Conference - All Student Leaders to attend
25th April     ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY is on a Saturday this year
7-10th May     AGE Careers Expo
12th May       Year 10 Information Evening for prospective 2016 students 6.30-8.00pm
13th May       School Council Meeting
19th May       CURRICULUM DAY, Staff Professional Development - Students do not attend
20th May       Mid-Year Dance Concert at Darebin Arts Centre, 6.00pm
30th May       I.C.E. Dance Crew - Dance Competition at Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre 4.00pm
Congratulations 2015 NCAT Student Leaders

It is with great pleasure that NCAT introduces our new Student Leaders for 2015:

Year 10A:
Leader: Tiffany McIntyre
Vice: Kathrynne Nghiem
Form group representative: Ben Parks

Year 10T:
Leader: Andrew Buzzini
Vice: Dave Serpell
Form group representative: Jani Krajnc

VCAL General:
Leader: Mark Anthony Sgarlata
Form group representative: Morgan Beck

VCAL Fitness:
Leader: Sebastian Di Pasquale
Form group representative: Kerry Zhang

VCAL Art:
Leader: Joey Argentaro
Form group representative: Jess Mathieson
Pre-Apprenticeships:
Leader: Nathaniel Liaw

VCAL Music:
Leader: Eimable Manirakiza
Form group representative: Alex Ngo and Ben
Kreymborg-Webb

VCAL Fitness:
Leader: Mark Anthony Sgarlata
Form group representative: Morgan Beck

VCAL Art:
Leader: Joey Argentaro
Form group representative: Jess Mathieson
Pre-Apprenticeships:
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VCAL Music:
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Leader: Joey Argentaro
Form group representative: Jess Mathieson
Pre-Apprenticeships:
Leader: Nathaniel Liaw

VCAL Music:
Leader: Eimable Manirakiza
Form group representative: Alex Ngo and Ben
Kreymborg-Webb

An important date to remember is Thursday 16th April 2015 when all Student Leaders will be attending the VicSRC Regional Conference to be held at Antonine College, St Joseph Campus, Pascoe Vale South. NCAT Student Leaders will have the opportunity to collaborate with student leaders from across the Northern Region.

Congratulations to all NCAT student leaders! We look forward to working with you throughout 2015.

Leanne Peros
Youth Worker/Student Leadership

Fitness Students Reach New Heights at La Trobe University

On Monday 23rd March the 2015 Fitness students completed a gruelling rock climbing course at La Trobe University.

The ten metre high outdoor rock climbing wall is just three months old and our Fitness students were provided with a complimentary session courtesy of La Trobe University’s Sports Centre.

The Fitness students applied their knowledge of risk management, conflict management and general fitness training principles in attempting to scale the ten metre wall.

It was pleasing to see Maegan Fletcher lead the way with Kerry Zhang following in her skilled footsteps. Maegan is developing into a great leader. She even took the time, whilst at the top of the wall, to encourage and guide Kerry to reach new heights.

The students also enjoyed a gym training session at La Trobe University as many were introduced to a commercial gym for the first time. Personal Trainer, Christine, demonstrated a health consultation to the students who hope to follow in her footsteps.

A big thank you to Sebastian Di Pasquale, for belaying his nervous teacher, and to all the Fitness students for encouraging me to climb higher than a jam tin!

Jamie Lyngcoln
SPORT, RECREATION & FITNESS DEPARTMENT
Anthony Gasson

We are pleased to welcome Anthony Gasson as the new Technology Programs Leader heading the Technology team at the college. Before coming to NCAT, Anthony was the Head of Technology at Whittlesea SC.

Anthony is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer by trade and worked on both light aircraft and Commercial Airliners. He spent most of his time working with 747-400s. His vast industry skills in this area are perfect for teaching Engineering students with Tony Willie.

Anthony was also involved with the recovery of crashed and failed aircraft. On one occasion he drove in a truck with his boss for four or five hours into regional Victoria. In the middle of a paddock in the middle of nowhere was a little Cessna which had had an engine failure. They took the task of pulling the wings off and driving it back to Moorabbin Airport so it could be repaired and reassembled. He is also a very keen car enthusiast and works on cars in his spare time.

Ten years ago when the aircraft maintenance industry showed sign of decline he decided to become a teacher. Anthony has really enjoyed his new career. He is a passionate advocate for technology studies programs in schools and is very excited to be working at NCAT where there is a strong community of highly skilled teachers and a group of passionate students/learners.

Stephen Lewis

Stephen Lewis (Steve) is another great new trainer joining our NCAT Technology team.

Steve has been sharing his skills with students for a few years now.

Like all of our technology trainers he has a lot of industry experience. He has been a qualified mechanic for thirty years in the automotive, marine and motorcycles industry and more recently, owned and ran a motor repair business for a number of years.

A highlight of his days working in the Marine Motor industry was when Steve’s boss received a call from the owner of a luxury motor yacht moored at Web Dock to come and service two jet skis. When Steve arrived at the dock, the yacht had already sailed. He rang his employer who rang the owner, who sent his helicopter to pick him up. Did we mention that it was a luxury yacht?

Steve put his tool box under one arm and the spare parts under his other, and climbed into the helicopter. He repaired the jet skis just before the yacht sailed out of Port Phillip Bay. He flew back to the dock feeling like a VIP.
Mark Risicato

While teaching commerce and IT in the 90s Mark Risicato became involved in building projects. He decided to leave teaching and become a registered builder and ran his own company for ten years. Mark has now returned to teaching but is teaching Building and Construction instead.

Mark was involved in the design and construction of precast concrete residential structures which is quite different from traditional timber frame single and double story houses. The new perspective on construction techniques, and skillsets opened up new possibilities to what can be achieved.

“I enjoy thinking outside of the square and achieving the same or better results using fewer resources, both financial, time and environmental. However, once it got me into a little bit of bother.” Mark organised a crane to lift some concrete panels and a delivery of 100 of 1200 by 2400 sheets of formwork ply at the same time. He intended for the crane to lift the ply as well. In the excitement of seeing the speedy completion of the structure he forgot the ply and let the crane go to save some money. The next few hours he carried the ply sheets up three floors, one by one, by himself. He now makes lists of important things that require heavy lifting and expensive hire machinery.

Mark is really looking forward to working with his new colleagues at NCAT and passing on tips, advice and knowledge to the students.

Mark Fioravanti

Mark Fioravanti is our new plumbing teacher at NCAT. He has worked in the plumbing industry for 22 years. He is a registered plumber and has had a wide range of job roles in Victoria and interstate from site foreman to supervisor at a major water authority.

In 2008 he decided he wanted to give back and started instructing students, mentoring and teaching. He also worked at Apprenticeship Group Australia for five years as a trainer and coordinator.

Mark is delivering a new format course to the students of the Certificate II in Plumbing.

Mark is very industry conscious and keeps up with all the new technology. His style of teaching is providing students with lots of hands on experiences and new challenges. He is a very enthusiastic about teaching and joining the NCAT technology team.

Mark has a quirky sense of humour. When we asked him to share an interesting story about his industry career for the newsletter we learnt that that while he was working for the water authority he water skied down the treatment plant canals. He did add that the water was post water treatment!
Visual Arts Excursion Week

Only three weeks into the year, our integrated VCAL-VET Visual Arts students attended a full week of excursions in the city. Activities were planned to help bond the student group and inspire a vibrant, creative and informed culture amongst our very talented students.

Monday and Tuesday students investigated a participatory Installation Art at both NGV International and the Ian Potter Centre through the work of David Shrigley, Emily Floyd and Carsten Holler.

On Thursday morning, students meandered through Melbourne’s laneways and back alleys on Blender Studio’s Street Art tour with street artist Daniel Lynch (AKA Junky Projects) and in the afternoon, began some visual research at the Melbourne Museum for an upcoming paste-up project of their own.

On Friday, students played with screen technologies at ACMI, followed by Yum Cha in Chinatown and the Menagerie exhibition at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art.

By the end of the week, the students were exhausted, inspired and aching to get back to the studio to start putting some of their new ideas into practice. They have all returned with new perspectives on Visual Art: what it is, what it could be, what it means to each of them.

Congratulations and thank you to our wonderful student group for their enthusiasm, energy and willingness to try new things! We can’t wait to see what you will bring to the Visual Arts in 2015.

Photography by Kylie O'Malley

Kylie O’Malley
Visual Arts Program Coordinator
March Madness!

March Madness certainly lived up to its name on Friday 20th March. A night of quality music and professional technical operations ensured that a great night was had by all. The concert, held in the Drama Room, ran from 6.00pm until 10.45pm and featured eight musical acts.

The opening duet, ‘Main Men’, set the tone when they entranced a crowd building towards 60. Following them was Gretta Ray whose plaintive singing and ghostly guitar sent shudders down the spine. Yasin Leflef provided a change of pace with his talented trio comprising Zain Whitman and Michael Maricchiolo, their style was their own and they managed to keep an audience focused on their intelligent and thoughtful songs.

The popular duet of Jemma Cummings and Alex Ngo otherwise known as’ Ruby Dreams’ took to the stage and continued to build on their reputation as being excellent pop artisans - their songs transported you and they were truly a consummate and professional act.

The crowd then had some slick jazz funk beat to shake them out of the blues and on to their feet. ‘Right On’ provided the slap and started to get the room boiling. Sean Ross’ band ‘Anchors and Alibis’ raised the temperature by belting out an impressive set well received by the crowd, A band to keep an eye on.

Following on were the redoubtable and ever giving ‘Strangers in Town’ with a blistering set peppered with new tracks and some of the old favourites - the Drama room’s walls were starting to get a beating! The pop punk trio have a harder edge to their sound and just keep getting better.

‘Head of A Lion’ then tore the walls down with an imposing presence and sound that once you have heard, you cannot unhear! People were throwing themselves around and the percussion made it impossible to stand still.

Closing the night were ‘Lost in Moments’, Kyle Cassidy’s band new to the school, but they are now old friends. A commanding set and stage performance helped establish these guys as a band you want to keep seeing. Tight and skilled they provided the spark and the crowd were the fire.

This was a great night for local music and a showcase for the talent that is evident in our students. Thanks to Matt Rodd and Shelley Scown for supporting and assisting with this concert and to their students who came to play, to help or to support and show their solidarity.

Special thanks to Riley White who oversaw all technical operations and supported the sound technicians students from the Certificate III in Technical Production as they learnt to operate various technical functions. Thanks to Michael Maricchiolo for his diligence and professionalism - always! A knack of his is to be in places at the right time, to fix any problem - to show such initiative is rare, so thanks twice. Thanks to all the brilliant and dedicated music students and musicians for sharing their talent and their heart. A big thanks to the guys from the Live Production crew who worked hard to put on this event and showed real honesty, commitment, teamwork and professionalism.

And to top it all off, it makes sense in a way, that Joe (the Maths teacher) won the jellybean contest! There were 625 beans in the jar and Joe was closest with 630 - well done! Rock on!

Peter Anstee
LIVE PRODUCTION SERVICES
Main Points

- From 13 April 2015, smoking will be banned within four metres of an entrance to all primary and secondary schools in Victoria, and within the school grounds, under an amendment to the Tobacco Act 1987.
- A similar ban applying to the entrances and grounds of Victorian childcare centres and kindergartens will be introduced at the same time.
- While smoking was banned on the grounds of all Victorian Government schools by the Minister for Education in 2009 via a Ministerial Ban Order, the new bans are enshrined in legislation and will also apply to Catholic and independent schools in Victoria, thereby ensuring a consistent approach across the government and non-government sectors.
- It is a legislative requirement that each school installs suitable ‘No smoking’ signs at all entrances to the school premises.
- Signs and other communication materials, such as posters and brochures, will be available to order free-of-charge from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) from late March 2015. These can be ordered from the Tobacco Reforms website: www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms.

Additional Information

- A public awareness and information campaign will promote community awareness of the bans. Print and radio advertising, as well as social media, will be used prior to the introduction of the bans and for a period following their commencement.
- Officers from councils will be responsible for enforcing the bans, and will take an education approach, making sure smokers understand the new laws. However, an infringement penalty of $147 could apply to adults caught wilfully breaking the law.
- Council officers have been given power to enter school premises to monitor and enforce the ban. However, this is subject to permission from the school principal and, if permission is provided, the inspector must be accompanied by the school principal or a person acting on their behalf. It is anticipated that the focus for council officers will be on those smoking within four metres of school entrances, and that the power to enter school premises will be used sparingly.
- Factsheets and further information about the bans will be available from the Tobacco Reforms website.
- You are encouraged to join over 650 other schools currently participating in the Healthy Together Achievement Program to create a healthy learning and smoke-free environment. The Achievement Program supports a whole-school approach to promoting health and improving student wellbeing and engagement and this may also support the introduction of the bans.
- Further information about the Achievement Program is available at: www.achievementprogram.healthytogether.health.vic.gov.au