

July 28, 2017

SFX



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40th Anniversary Celebrations

From the Acting Principal

By Colleen Rowe

The term has started with a sense of busy enthusiasm and positive energy. Mr Tulley is on leave this term and I am the Acting Principal while he is away. Mr Tulley has had a variety of experiences while overseas. He had time studying in Rome, trekking along the Italian Riviera coastline and visiting friends and family in England and Scotland. We look forward to welcoming him back refreshed and re-energised in Term 4.

Last Week a group of SFX Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander students and the friends attended the Catholic Education NAIDOC Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral with Mrs Leilah Ayton and Mr Luke Potter. As part of the celebration the 2017 NAIDOC Recognition Awards for Students, Staff, Schools and Communities are awarded. We congratulate Luke Potter who received an award for making a valuable contribution to developing Australia's future through promoting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders histories and cultures.

This week we wish Matt Pham, Gerry Elias, Graham Stock and students Matthew and Jack Williams, Ryan Ewyk, Riley Cockerill and Aaron Maggs well as they compete in the RoboCup International Tournament in Nagoya, Japan. We look forward to hearing about their successes and the exciting learning experiences that will undoubtedly unfold for them all.

Academic Award Ceremony

On Wednesday the College Award Ceremony was held: celebrating the successes of Semester One. Here is part of my address to the audience (continued Page 3)

Gathering together today gives us time to pause and take note of the success we have achieved, individually and collectively, to honour those who have excelled as well as those who have put in outstanding efforts to learn and improve, and also to give thanks. As it is the 40th Anniversary of the school this year I thought I would reflect briefly on part of the Saint Francis Xavier College journey.

In 1977 St. Francis Xavier High School Florey opened for students in Years 7 and 8 and students in Years 5 & 6 from what was to become St Monica's Primary School in Evatt. In 1977 Belconnen also saw the construction of the Cameron Offices, the Bruce College of Technical and Further Education (now the Bruce Campus of CIT) established, Kippax Fair in Holt was opened, the Australian Institute of Sport Athletics Stadium was completed and the final concrete was poured for stage-1 of the Belconnen Mall construction.



It was in these early years that the motto Truth and Courage was chosen, capturing for the founding SFX community the essence of what they believed would be the fundamental virtues to guide the fledgling school. I began at the school in the years of Jim Peoples' principalship and it was very obvious to me, a newcomer, that these virtues were lived in the community. I felt that there was something very special about the school and this is still commented on by visitors today. They tell us that there is a sense of calm, a feeling of welcoming and hospitality and a spirit that is uniquely SFX.

From 1994 to 2002 Moira Najdecki was Principal. Moira led the process to create the College Mission. This statement spoke clearly about the importance of nurturing right relationships, calling us to be truthful and courageous people who value learning and celebrate Christ's life-giving presence among us. This helped enshrine the special SFX spirit and feeling of community as the guiding principles for the College into the future.

The school continued to flourish. In 1997 the Middle School started, in humble beginnings in three B block classrooms with nine non-networked laptop computers. In 2002 that same class who were our first Middle Schoolers became our first Year 12 graduates as the school grew to a College. The addition of Years 11 and 12 saw a great increase in numbers which fostered a flurry of building activity. The Maths Block was built, the Resource Centre was extended and refurbished and the Industrial Arts area was expanded. A new Senior Common Room was also added in what is now the Performing Arts Area 1.

Under Mr Tulley's leadership the College has added a Trade Training Centre and a purpose-built Middle School Building and has seen the refurbishment of the B block corridors and most recently the building of the Hub, Canteen and Café facilities. During this time our College Vision for Teaching and Learning was developed. This vision, Living the Truth, Leading with Courage and Learning for Life, along with the principles that underpin it, guides everything we do at Saint Francis Xavier College. It focuses on challenging our students to be critically constructive, courageous, creative, compassionate and 'vigilant agitators' where they see the need to right wrongs in the world.

Today the work to improve our teaching and learning environment continues and just as we dreamed a Middle School Building in 1997 we hope that one day we will have a gathering space that will accommodate the whole school and our guests comfortably for a ceremony such as this. Maybe an underground car park can be included if we can find a generous benefactor.

This ceremony, with the presentations and performances, represent much of what makes SFX such a wonderful place to be. However it is the shared sense of belonging and the enthusiasm for all that we do, each and every day, that is important. We are a strong, welcoming and inclusive community; this is our greatest strength and it does not happen by accident. Every individual contributes to our success as a collaborative school: a school of opportunities for all.

The foundation Principal Peter Moore reflected, in 1984, that SFX 'at a time when the first lay-administered Catholic High School in the ACT was under scrutiny, and viewed with some apprehension, the willingness of all concerned in those early days was inspirational and greatly appreciated'. Today our staff are just as willing, inspirational and dedicated and I thank them and our support network in the wider SFX Community for the contribution they make to bringing our vision and mission to light.



Academic Award Ceremony Guest Speaker: Andrea Faulkner

Andrea Faulkner has a lovely connection with SFX as she is a cousin of our Year 9 Coordinator, Mr Telford. In preparing to introduce our guest I found that she is a very accomplished person. Andrea graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Performing Arts) from the University of Adelaide in 1987 followed by a BA (Honours) in 1989 and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1990.

From there she followed a path to what Andrea refers to as 'being a diverse and mobile career' with DFAT where she found her studies in French and Italian very useful. She also speaks Hebrew.

Andrea has worked in Canberra and overseas on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral policy areas, including strategic and arms control issues, the environment, regional security, trade advocacy, consular work, and most recently on enhanced engagement with Africa. She has enjoyed at least three overseas postings: in Paris, in Hanoi as Deputy Ambassador and Tel Aviv as Australia's Ambassador to Israel.

Andrea reflected on her journey to become a diplomat and explained the role of a diplomat when working at an overseas posting. She also shared why she loves doing what she does. Andrea offered advice and wisdom to the students about being willing to change plans to follow their dreams and that working hard at school will open up many more opportunities for them in the future.





Mission in Indonesia

By Lachlan Bull

Between the 8th and 23rd of July, I had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to Indonesia with the Asia-Pacific school of Evangelisation led by Sr. Therese Mills of the Missionaries of God's Love sisters.

Throughout the two weeks in Indonesia we travelled to Bali and Maumere in the island of Flores. We ran sessions on friendship with Jesus in orphanages, helped run a retreat for young adults with the theme of commitment, ran reflection day like sessions with a group of high schoolers, played games with primary school children and many more participated in areas of ministry places such as prisons and the slums.

The mission trip also provided some reflective and down time with trips to Turtle Island, water sports in Bali and a visit to the Mother of all Nations in Maumere, a 15ft statue of Mother Mary.

Our group consisted of two Missionaries of God's Love, two students from Canberra, a CSYMA youth minister from Coffs Harbour and a previous Youth Ministry Team member from Melbourne.

Onigiri beauty contest

Natalie Bakonji

On the last day of term 2, Mrs Bakonji's Year 7 Japanese competed in the Annual SFX Onigiri Beauty Contest.

Onigiri are the original fast food/snack food of Japan. They are little triangular balls of rice with a filling of fish or chicken (or anything really!) and wrapped in seaweed. But some Japanese mums have taken to designing cute faces on the onigiri so their small children will eat all their lunch.

So the Annual SFX Onigiri Beauty Contest sees Year 7 students designing on paper how they will use the rice ball and seaweed to create a cute creature. And then comes the fun but sometimes challenging part - construction. The biggest challenge this year, was stopping the students from eating their creation before they could be judged!

Once the onigiri were created, the class voted on the best four. The finalists then 'paraded' in front of the Canteen staff who judged the winners.

This year's lucky winners were Jeewani Fernando and Angus Chiswell.



Teaching and Learning @ SFX

Tracey Loughhead

This term we will be evaluating the new student reporting procedures to inform future end-of-semester reports. The feedback provided by the parent community and staff will provide useful details which will assist in informing these discussions. Evaluation will happen in a number of ways. The information about students' 'approaches to learning,' will be a focus for discussion with students in Term 3.

Teachers will outline what the positive learning behaviours 'look like' and ask students to reflect on their areas of strength and areas for development. In future College Newsletters, we will expand on these 'approaches to learning' to ensure parents have a solid understanding of the approaches too.

The section of the subject report, that gives an indication of the student's accomplishment in relation to the achievement standards and course goals, will be evaluated by each Subject Department. Feedback about the language used to interpret the Achievement Standards has been helpful. It has highlighted the need to use more concise language and less 'edu-jargon' to ensure that students and parents understand the standards so that it is clear what students know and can do. The changes to the report format and delivery, via email, enabled a much more efficient process and senior reports were sent at the end of term instead of the usual timeframe of Week 2 of Semester 2.

The changes allowed teachers to gain more time for teaching and learning as the deadline for reporting data entry was extended by over a week. The changes also saw a reduction to teacher (and Support Staff) stress levels and enabled more time for evaluation and planning at the end of semester. Research tells us that effective feedback is the one of most powerful ways to improve student learning outcomes. The end-of-semester student report provides a summative appraisal of student learning and is not formative feedback for learning.

For feedback to be effective it needs to be timely, specific and related to the learning and assessment intention. The new learning management platform, Canvas, has given us the opportunity to provide this type of feedback. Teachers have been trialling Canvas with some of their classes in Semester One to provide constructive meaningful information to students within a short time frame. The aim of this, more formative feedback is to focus on the learning and assessment and correct misunderstandings, identify and reinforce students' strengths and provide information about how they can improve.

Canvas also facilitates opportunities for students to self-assess and reflect during the learning process. Within the next eighteen months the College anticipates that all classes will receive assessment feedback via Canvas. This enables parents to view the assessment and the feedback and be part of the 'learning journey' with the student.



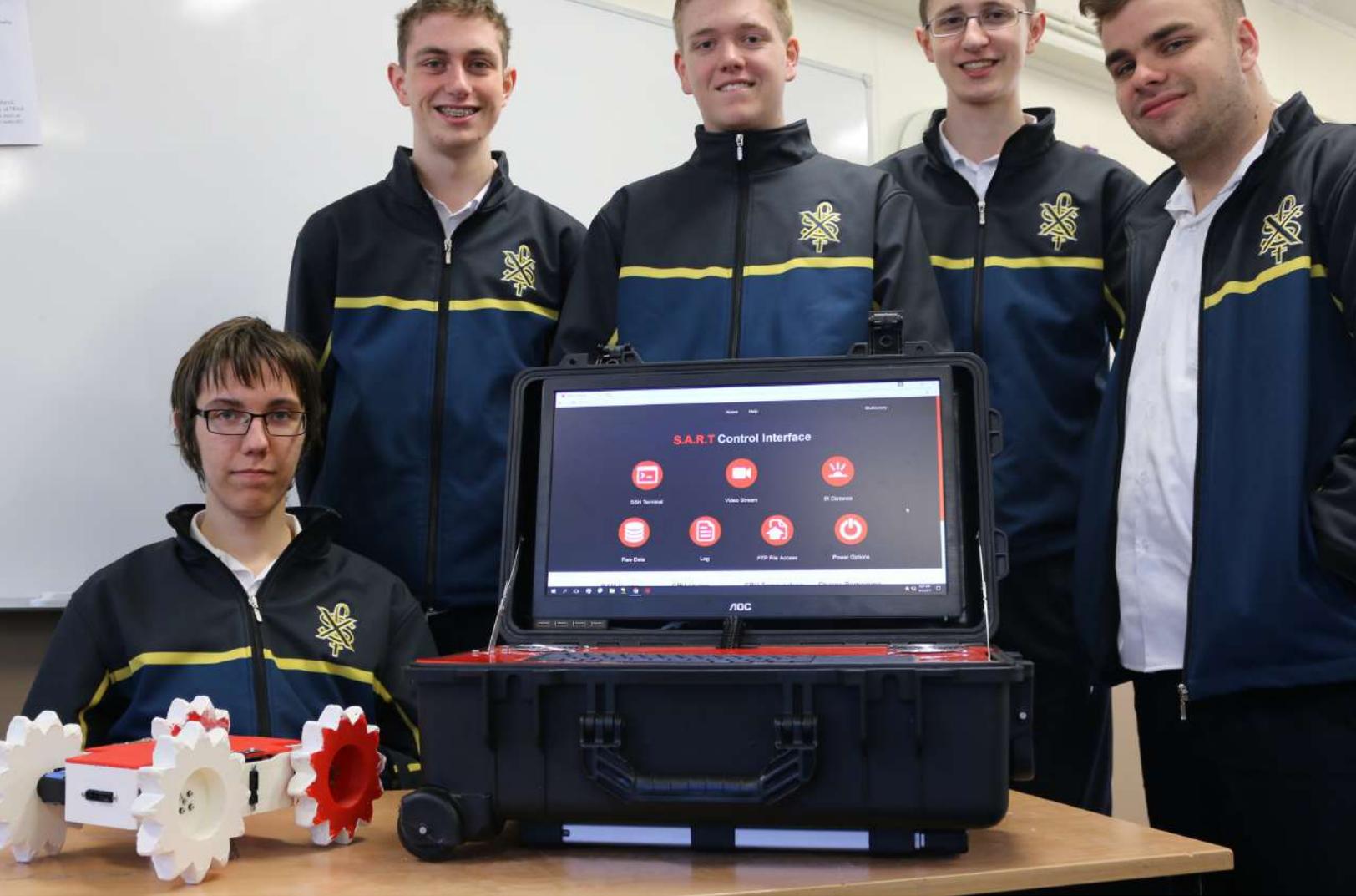


This year's SFX Musical Hairspray is SOLD OUT!

From 10-12 August, students from every grade of the college will perform in the musical Hairspray. Tickets went on sale on Monday 24 July, and within two days had completely sold out! Nonetheless, we have provided some details below!

Welcome to the 60s! Baltimore's loveable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has a passion for dancing, and wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show." In a flash, Tracy finds herself transformed from a nobody to a teen celebrity. Can this vivacious adolescent outdo the show's reigning "Miss Teenage Hairspray", fight for racial equality in an era of change, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while, of course!) without denting her 'do? Only in Hairspray!

<h1>HAIRSPRAY</h1>				
The Broadway Musical				
Book by		Music by		Lyrics by
Mark O' Donnell	Thomas Meehan	Marc Shaiman	Scott Wittman	Marc Shaiman
Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters				
Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler				
Arrangements by Marc Shaiman				
<small>Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International [Australasia]. All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.</small>				



SFX students competing in RoboCup in Japan

Students from St. Francis Xavier College are in Nagoya, Japan, competing as a part of the Australian Team at RoboCup 2017. Robocup is an international competition promoting robotics and Artificial Intelligence research, and engages students from Primary School right through to University all around the world in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

St Francis Xavier College's STEM facilitator Graham Stock is accompanying the students, along with Information Technology teachers Matthew Pham and Gerard Elias.

Graham is looking forward to demonstrating the students' skills on a worldwide platform.

"This will be an incredible opportunity to network with like-minded students from around the world, to gain new knowledge and skills", said Graham.

The five students, Aaron Maggs, Matt and Jock Williams, Ryan Ewyk and Riley Cockerill, who make up the Semi-Autonomous Robotics Team (S.A.R.T), will be competing in the Rapid Manufactured Rescue Robot League against High Schools and Universities from across the globe.

Their robot is designed as a search and rescue robot.

The aim of this competition to help develop technologies which could one day be deployed by emergency services as a cost-effective way of search places too dangerous to send humans. The St Francis Xavier students have had considerable success in past years, last year being named world champions in two categories.

Sport Report

By Samantha Stevens

We are already underway with trials, and have several sports coming up this term. These include:

College Mixed Hockey
College Boys and Girls Oztag
Years 7 - 10 Girls Netball
Years 7 - 10 Boys and Girls Soccer
Northside and ACT Athletics
Years 7 - 10 Girls Cricket

All students are reminded to listen out during Pastoral notices and to keep an eye on the PE Noticeboard for trial and sport information.

Congratulations to Abbie and Samantha Bailey have both been chosen in the ACT U12s Touch team, to compete in the Pacific School Games in Adelaide in December. This is Abbie's 4th year in the U12s team. She was first selected when she was 9 years old. It is Samantha's 3rd year in the U12s team. Well done girls and good luck with your competitions!

We are looking forward to another busy term of sport here at SFX and wish everyone good luck with their sporting endeavours.

A reminder that if your child has accomplished any sporting achievements that you would like recognised in the newsletter, please email me the details at samantha.stevens@sfx.act.edu.au.



Religion @ SFX

A photograph of a wooden cross standing on a grassy hill. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the cross. The cross is the central focus, positioned slightly to the right of the center. The background shows a soft, hazy sky with some clouds, and the foreground is the dark silhouette of the hill.

By Anne Armstrong

Father James Martin SJ posted on Facebook recently "We are human beings, not human doings". His statement was a challenge to reflect on the importance of being, being in the present and being present to others.

So often we often ask others what we can do for them rather than asking can we be with them. If we read the Story of Mary and Martha in Luke 8: 10-42, we see that Jesus values Mary just being with him. Martha's hospitality is practical and welcoming but she is too distracted by her duties as hostess to just be with her guest and listen.

James Martin says Jesuit spirituality sees spirituality as a way of living in relationship to God; about finding God in all things.

Jesuit spirituality is about incarnational spirituality. Incarnational means to become flesh (from carne meaning meat as in carnivore) Christian theology believes that God became human in the person of Jesus. God is found in the everyday events and relationships of our lives. God is not just out there or transcendent. God is present, here and now, in this place. This God present here and now invites us also to be present here and now, like Mary.

This opportunity to reflect and be present before God is called 'Examen' in the Jesuit tradition, of which St Francis Xavier was a member. Following his example as our patron, we are encouraged examine our lives every night and ask ourselves are we living the fruits of the Holy Spirit by being:

Loving
Joyful
At Peace
Patient
Kind
Good
Generous
Gentle
Faithful
Modest and humble
Self-controlling
Chaste

How can we improve our capacity to be in each of the above areas? Are we actively inviting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to be part of our being?

Wisdom to help us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives; Understanding to comprehend the meaning of God's message for us and our lives and relationships; Knowledge to think about and explore God's revelation, and to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us; Counsel to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that need to be placed before him; Fortitude: courage to do what one knows is right and not be a bystander; Piety to help us pray to God in true devotion.

How can we develop these gifts to be present in God's love and live in loving awareness of our world and the people in it?

Fear of the Lord the feeling of amazement, wonder and awe before God, who is all-present, and whose love for us is infinite. The values expressed in the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit are found in all religions. We are actively reflecting on and exploring these values in Year 10 RE this term as we consider how the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes provide us with a framework for living Christian values.

In the next few newsletters I will be exploring more of the Jesuit tradition of finding God in all things.

Hopefully our students are also finding God in their various Studies of Religion this semester. Year 9s are encountering the Jesus of the Gospels, looking particularly at Luke's Gospel and Jesus healing ministry and parables. The focus of their work is on the Scripture from Luke 4:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Four Year 11 classes have elected to study Social Justice. Their Good News focus is on bringing justice to the homeless, the slave and those who are the subject of human trafficking.

Two Year 11 classes are studying Religion and Science and began their unit with an experience of reflecting on wonder and awe in creation. They will also be considering Religious and Scientific Cosmology and the contributions both disciplines make to human progress.

One Year 11 class is studying Religion and the Media and as part of their studies considering how to bring the Good News of Jesus to the modern world. The absolute importance of this was seen in the recent release of Census results showing that only about 30 percent - 50 percent of Canberrans express any kind of religious affiliation. You can find more about these results here: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/census-2016-abs-reveals-canberras-most-religious-and-most-godless-suburbs-20170710-gx85d7.html>

Such results certainly make the challenge of new evangelisation real and urgent.

Year 12s have elected to do a variety of topics, Religion and Psychology, Religion and the Media, Religion and Politics, Religion and the Arts, Religion and Literature and Independent Studies.

Independent Studies encourages students to choose an area of Religion they are interested in, develop and defend a thesis with a 3000-word essay and a process diary. I have been very impressed at some of the areas they are considering so far and I look forward to working with them on developing these ideas.

While it is going to be a busy term, I certainly hope we all can just enjoy each other's company on occasions and just be!



NAIDOC recognition for Luke Potter

By Leilah Ayton

Many people within our school communities have made a valuable contribution to developing Australia's future through their active involvement in promoting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders histories and cultures.

In his time as Aboriginal Contact Leader Luke Potter has been a passionate advocate for students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds at St Francis Xavier College..

Luke is committed to providing opportunities for ATSI students to connect with land and initiated the SFX Bush Tucker Garden to provide opportunities for our students to do so. The Bush Tucker Garden is a working space where our ATSI students are leading the school and will provide great links across all curriculum areas to Aboriginal culture, both past and present.

Luke has also recognised the importance of positive role models for our students of Indigenous backgrounds and has instigated the SFX partnership with the AIME program. This program aims to ensure that ATSI students enter tertiary study and the workforce at the same rate as the wider community.

Finally Luke has provided students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds an opportunity to develop their leadership and sports skills through his partnerships with Cal Bruton, Marymead & Charity Bounce. This basketball program runs every Wednesday afternoon and provides positive life skill development in a fun and healthy way.

Luke strives to promote reconciliation within our College community, providing whole school learning experiences that recognise the rich history of our traditional owners, and the strong and proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture that is alive and growing at St Francis Xavier College today.

Year 12 Business Trip

By Felicity Hunt

This semester Year 12 Business students will engage in an in-depth study that examines current business challenges facing Australia businesses and the economy. As part of this study, the students were provided with an opportunity to visit Melbourne to explore these challenges and issues over three days.

The students participated in an Economy Walking Tour of the CBD that provided an understanding of how the city of Melbourne has developed and changed throughout time, from historical and contemporary economic stories. The tour guide, Meyer, exposed students to the successful business models in operation such as the unique laneway system and the art and cultural precincts and showed them the construction, financial services and tourism services in action. When visiting these locations, students considered how the city has responded to economic and social needs over time.

A market analysis was conducted on the CBD retail precinct, focussing on the Bourke Street district and the new Melbourne Emporium. This experience allowed the students to gain an understanding of the global and international businesses that have a strong presence in the Australian economy.

The contemporary social issue of sustainability was explored and students considered the impacts that businesses can have on society and the environment. This was explored at the Queen Victoria Market, researching their sustainability initiatives and seeing this in action. We were also fortunate to participate in a walking tour with guide April Seymour from the Port Phillip Eco Centre. This walking tour focussed on the business principle corporate social responsibility, using the St. Kilda precinct and the St. Kilda penguins at the St. Kilda Breakwater as case studies.

April was extremely informative about the relationship between businesses and the environment and the tour challenged students to consider the juggling act between protecting and preserving the natural environment, but also seeking economic growth for our economy.

Students were also able to experience new business innovations, such as ArtVo – a business that offers visitors the chance to experience the traditional art museum in a whole new manner. ArtVo provides visitors with a variety of zones where you become the art in a world of optical illusions. Students could enjoy the experience of this emerging business whilst considering how traditional businesses can be reinvented to appeal to a broader target market.



Position Vacant

A temporary position is available in the College Canteen for the remainder of 2017

Hours: 7.30am – 3.30 daily

To obtain Duty Statement, Selection Criteria and Application Form please email jennifer.madgwick@sfx.act.edu.au or telephone 6258 1055

Applications close Wednesday 2 August

Celebrating 40 Years



On Saturday 4 November we will be celebrating 40 years of Catholic Education at SFX!!

A meeting has been scheduled at 5.00pm on Thursday 3 August to share ideas and form an organising committee.

All welcome!

Please email your interest to jennifer.madgwick@sfx.act.edu.au or telephone 6278 9040.