

# Across the Distance

Distance Education Centre Victoria  
Flexible learning for all



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FEATURED ARTWORK: Unit 3 folio for VCE Visual Communication and Design. Mock Up – “White Red Black” by Rebecca.

Clock Image from Google Images.

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### Finding the Time . . .

By Erzsebet, Jess and Shulamit

At the DECV time management is paramount, whether you’re doing all your subjects with DECV or are a school-based student. Managing your time, assures you that you get all your work done by the deadlines. It also helps you to avoid work from accumulating, stopping you from feeling unnecessary pressure and stress.

Learning to manage your time at the DECV will help you be prepared for any further tertiary study. If we work on them now, then hopefully by that time we’ll have those skills well and truly mastered. Time management isn’t just for schoolwork either; it’s something you can use in your everyday life.

**Students from DECV have come up with various tips that might help you manage your time better**

*Each week draw up a timetable of subjects that need to be completed, to organize your time better.*

*Make a chart of all the weeks and check off the weeks you have completed to prevent you from resending the same work or forgetting to send it.*

*Don’t leave your work or questions till the end of the week. If you are unsure, stuck, or something is unclear, contact your teachers.*

*Discover which working method is best suited for you. You might spend 1–2 hours on one subject and then begin working on another subject, or you may prefer spending one day on each subject.*

*Don’t adjourn work for submission, projects or assignments by leaving them to the last moment, simply begin making progress.*

It is sometimes hard, but by implementing these strategies not only to our studies but also to our everyday lives, Time Management will come as second nature. It will get easier as time progresses. We hope that these ideas will help you both now and into the future.

# A note from your coordinators



## From the Assistant Principal

Fiona Webster

I have a confession to make. I'm fascinated by learning. Why is it easy to learn some things and so much harder to learn others? As learners what can we do to improve and speed up the process? As VCE, VET or VCAL students you may be interested in these ponderings too.

I have a question for you. What do you do with your work after you get it back from your teacher? Ideally, you will read your teacher's feedback. You may feel pride in the progress you are making or disappointment if you still haven't quite got it. You might wonder why a certain comment has been made.

What do you do then?

Do you file it away in a folder or perhaps under the bed full of good intentions to look at it again when you're doing revision? If so, you may be missing a golden opportunity to really lift the standard of your work.

The Irish author, James Joyce once said,

*“Mistakes are the portals of discovery.”*

Shifting our ideas about making mistakes can really make a difference. Rather than feeling a bit hopeless when your work isn't quite right, try to see it as an opportunity to learn and improve. Here are a couple of actions you can take after you've read your feedback. Give your teacher a call and discuss the comments with them. They want to help you. Work out an action plan based on the areas that you need to concentrate on. Consider whether any other teachers have made similar comments on your work. This can help you to really home in on what you need to do to improve and lift your performance in several subjects at the one time.

Watching a toddler learning to walk can be inspirational. The following link and QR code take you to a little clip of *Lia learning to walk*. She tries one approach after the other, falls over, gets up again and has another go. In the meantime her family give her feedback and encouragement. She doesn't waste time on feeling stupid for not getting it right the first time. She perseveres. I'd like to wish you all the best as you continue to persevere with your studies. If you'd like a copy of a template you can use for action planning based on feedback, send me an email at

[fwebster@distance.vic.edu.au](mailto:fwebster@distance.vic.edu.au)



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amapoal3aNM>

What's this? This is a QR code. If you are reading a printed version of the newsletter and have an iPhone, iPod, iPad or Android phone you can download a free QR reader which will scan this image and take you to Youtube

## DECV news and announcement update

Hi students,

Most of you are now into the second half of the year, but for some of our students, their studies in 2011 have just begun. Studying via distance can have its challenges; however, it can also be very rewarding. In order to get the most out of your studies it is important that you follow some key steps to success:

### Stay in regular contact with your teachers

– phone, email or even face to face. Students that stay in contact with their teacher are more likely to get through their course successfully.

**Submit work every week** – staying organised and up to date with your work is vital for distance education. If you get behind it can become a bit overwhelming. If you want some advice on getting organised and improving your time management your support teacher will be able to help.

**Keep us in the loop** – sometimes unexpected things happen that may make studying difficult or mean you need to change your program slightly. The sooner you let us know what is going on, the sooner we can offer assistance.

## Reporting

Printed copies of Semester 1 reports were mailed in Week 1 of Semester 2. School-based students should see their supervisor to obtain a copy. Online copies are available from the school's website using the student user ID and login details. Please ring the switchboard and ask to speak to the Reporting Coordinator for the 11–12 Sub School should you have any questions about SEMESTER 1 REPORTS.

# Student Activities

## THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Jessica – Year 11

The Skoolaborate Art Project taught me a lot of things. For one, that graffiti isn't just scribble all over the walls that people spend hours scrubbing off. If you look with your eyes open you'll see the unique art behind it. You'll start to see the personalised styles of each artist, the elaborate designs and the messages they're trying to get across. During the project, we were by no means taught to vandalise the streets, but instead exposed to a medium of art that is often disregarded.

Along with other interested students, I attended a 2 day seminar at the DECV on 10 and 11 March. Here we met graffiti artist Daniel Wallwork or as we later came to know him *Wally*. We created our own tags – the equivalents of signatures in the graffiti world and worked in an online virtual environment called *Second Life*. Here we were able to create avatars and connect with other Distance Ed students from Cairns and Brisbane. In this virtual world where you can fly and create 3D shapes in only a couple of clicks, we were able to exhibit and view artworks us students had created.

Five students were then chosen to go to Cairns, to come face to face with five students from each of the other Distance Education schools, and where we would create a huge graffiti mural. The mural would then be separated into three parts, one to return home with each of the schools. However the mural would remain in one piece in *Second Life* (see photo above). It would be a 5 day all-expenses paid trip to Cairns from the 2 to 6 May.

When I found out I had made it I could hardly wait. I was looking forward to meeting other Distance Ed students, creating art and then of course the warmer weather. When the day finally came to board the plane to Cairns, I could see my excitement reflected in the eyes of the other chosen DECV students. From the minute we arrived I think we all felt right at home. The teachers were great and went beyond their call of duty to ensure we were comfortable and enjoyed ourselves.

The next days were filled with hard work, but also fun as we approached the big task of creating the mural. The vibe there was just awesome with all these creative minds rearing to go. We began by brainstorming and designing what it was going to contain.

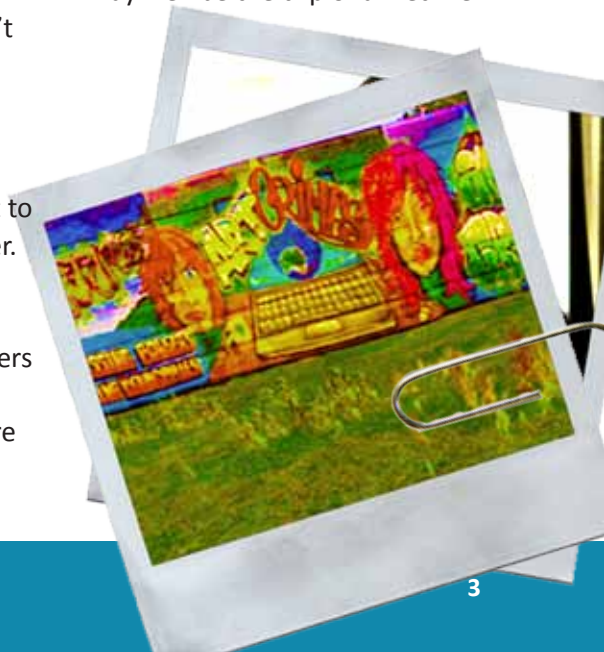
Our theme was *Crossing Borders Shifting Boundaries*. We reflected on how we communicate with the other Distance Ed students. The wall was MUCH bigger than any of us imagined, but we welcomed the challenge. We knew with Wally's and our own passion and enthusiasm we couldn't fail.

Before our eyes, the mural was starting to form. It was the most amazing feeling of accomplishment to know we had achieved this together. Then, on the final day we added all the final touches. We had the big unveiling of the mural where teachers and important people of the town came. The Channel Seven crew were

even there and the previous day *The Cairns Post* came! As all of us stood there, we were able to admire our work that we had dedicated many hours to. It had been worth every second of it.

On this trip I learnt the things one sometimes fears of missing out on with Distance Ed. I learnt about working with others, listening to each other's ideas, and lending a hand. I hope that the DECV will continue to run projects like these so that other students will get this opportunity like I did. We shouldn't limit ourselves to course books and online lessons. And should these projects stop at national? Why not go international and involve students from schools around the world? These projects need not necessarily be art orientated; they could focus on other topics like the environment or helping the less fortunate.

If you ever get an opportunity like I did, don't think twice – just do it. It may well be the trip of a lifetime.



# Student Activities

## 2010 VCE ART HIGH ACHIEVERS

Mary Nalpantidis – Art Teacher

VCE Art in 2011 commenced with an Introductory Workshop held at the DECV on 25 February. For the students, this was an invaluable experience; they met their peers, familiarised themselves with the facilities at the Centre, and focused on the diverse scope for learning offered in Art. Furthermore, this year the students had the opportunity to view previous folios on the school's iPods. It was clear that this technology provided an invaluable reference to the diverse visual documentation of thinking and working practices by art students in the previous year. To their credit, many students did travel for at least three hours to attend the workshop.

The annual *Top Arts* exhibition held at the Ian Potter Gallery at Federation Square provided Year 11 and 12 DECV students with the opportunity to view School-assessed Task folios, and attend a lecture on the expectations and content of art making by Gallery Education Staff. This was followed by an informal opportunity to share the ideas about the direction of each student's folio work.

This year I would like to acknowledge DECV students **Jessica Bong** and **Claire Cato** for being short-listed and **Catherine Gilford** for the selected entry into *Top Arts 2010*. Catherine should also be commended for achieving 49 out of a possible score of 50 for her studies in Art at the DECV.

During the course of the year, Year 12 students are invited to present their folio artwork in progress. They are encouraged to come to the DECV at any time to discuss their practical and theory work. In some cases, practical demonstrations by the teacher, to further assist students are provided.



Catherine with the Hon Martin Dixon, Minister for Education, at the 2010 Top Arts Opening

Visits to the Centre by students are invaluable and rewarding learning experiences that contribute towards their studies in Art.

Each year, DECV purchases a student work to be displayed in the 'Prewitt Gallery'. I am pleased to announce that **Jessica Daulaca's** photograph of *Fijian Warrior* was selected as the 2010 DECV Student Art Acquisition. Jessica lived on a small island in Fiji and has studied by distance for most of her schooling. She aimed to document the culture and peoples of her native island.



Jessica's photograph, *Fijian Warrior*, 2010



## Music Style and Composition Seminar

Katarina Vrisk, Music Style and Composition teacher.

At any Music Style and Composition seminar, you're bound to hear lots of musical mayhem! Not only are there pieces of interesting music being played and students working their ears into overdrive but also there is music making and sometimes guest artists too.

Take the Unit 1 seminar, for example. Local African band AZOHU paid a visit to enthral the Unit 1 MSC students, who travelled from as far away as Gippsland. Pictured here, the band, under the expert leadership of tertiary lecturer, Chris Lesser, mostly consists of musicians originally from Ghana in West Africa. The students were also invited to participate, playing *gankogui* (bells), *axatse* (gourd rattle) and the *sogo* (drum). Each group rotated so everyone had a chance to try all the instruments. What a thrill!

After the performance, the musicians went back to their *day jobs* which included taxi and bus driving.

# Student Activities

## Top Class dancers

By Belinda Saltmarsh-Kram  
VCE Dance teacher

The first *Top Class* performance that I attended was in 2002 and what I mainly recall, is the amount of brilliant dance students all hailing from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. All of these dance students showed supreme technical dance skills in their Unit 3 Technique Solos and explored sometimes haunting and disturbing themes in their Unit 4 Composition Solos.

At the latest Top Class Performance held at the Southbank Recital Centre on 11 March, one could have said the same thing about the Distance Education Centre Victoria, as four of our VCE Dance students from 2010 performed five solos, the most represented school on the program.

This was very exciting.

**Justin Zee** and **Mikaela Caffrey** performed their Technique Solos. Justin made the most of his elevation skills and basically *eating through* the space as Australian dancers are known to do. He is now studying dance full time at the National Theatre School in St Kilda.

Mikaela had delayed her Unit 4 studies as she had sustained a horrific hip injury when swinging on a playground with her younger sister the previous year. What a buzz to see her perform on stage and see how not only injuries can heal but how determination and persistence can pay off. When I asked Mikaela how she felt after her performance she answered that she was relieved to be able to say goodbye to this solo as she has been performing it for three years!

**Katie Privett** danced her Composition Solo in a super costume which received gasps of approval from the audience when she entered the space. She explored 'letting go of the past and moving forward in life as a young adult'.



Karli Dinardo

*Top Acts* showcases the top musicians, bands, theatre and drama students as well as dance.

**Karli Dinardo** shows such incredible dance talent that she has been the only VCE Dance student chosen to perform in *Top Acts* to be held at the Palais Theatre on 13 May.

Congratulations to Karli and to all the DECV VCE Dance students who show such commitment and talent in their dancing.

When asking our current students which solos they most enjoyed, nearly all mentioned Karli's Unit 4 Composition Solo based on *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. This haunting solo depicts the story of two friends who unwittingly go to their deaths in a concentration camp.

Both Katherine Beatty and I have the opportunity to meet some of our current students studying at DECV but since we haven't *met* them yet we don't know what they look like! Katherine has taken to wearing a wonderful sequined red sparkly hat and this is how many of our current students find their DECV Dance teachers.

If you ever attend a Top Acts performance look out for the DECV Dance students who will be performing and if you see two beaming dance teachers one wearing a sparkly red sequined hat, you will know who they are!

## DECV Student Footy Tipping Competition

Julie Lew

Each week, 118 DECV students enter their footy tips online. After ten rounds, nine different students have won the weekly voucher with one lucky student winning it twice!

We have some fine tippers resulting in a very close competition. Jesse (Year 12) currently leads the competition with 58 correct tips, followed closely by Sarah (Year 9) and Isaac (Year 11) who are both sitting on 57.



## DECV student wins a VCE Premier's Award

Nicholas Park received a Premier's Award for excellence in Maths Methods.

There were only six others awarded in Mathematical Methods across the state, so it's a wonderful achievement. Nicholas studied at the DECV in 2010.

This year, Nicholas is completing his VCE at school, and hopes to go on to University.

Congratulations Nicholas

# Student Activities

During their study of Unit 3 English at DECV, students create written pieces that encourage them to reflect on their identity and sense of belonging. Jamie has written an entertaining story about his life in New Caledonia and how his being a part of this often chaotic community helps him to define his own identity.

Amy Wennan

## My Crazy Community

by Jamie, VCE English.

If there is one word which I would use to sum up my community it would be: CRAZY! For one thing, when walking down the streets of New Caledonia you have to be careful that you are not targeted. I don't mean by gangsters . . . but by cars! Erratic driving appears to be a common thing in New Caledonia. You have people swirling on the road, trying to overtake you on a bend and not looking in the rear view mirror when reversing. That is just a small aspect of my community. Want to know more?

People in my community are not that much in a hurry to help you out. You could call your friend up on Monday to ask him to help you out in the garden on Tuesday, but don't expect a definite reply until Wednesday. Also if you hear two people screaming at one another in French on the street, don't worry – they are just talking about soccer. Apart from this, Saturday and Sunday is considered migration day. During these two days everyone from the south of the island travels up north as if to escape some deadly disease. The real reason though is, "to enjoy the weekend, in the bush".

Public service is another thing which just drives you mad. It seems that there is so much red tape you almost require 75 signatures just to install wireless Internet. If a construction site has been commissioned, expect building to finish in two years. Also when lining up at the shops with just 2 aisles open, and about 15 people waiting in line, don't be surprised if the cashier decides to have a long jovial yarn to the customer she is serving.



This is a photo of me standing next to a Kanak tribal wooden carving near a cultural centre.

Siestas are another crazy thing in New Caledonia. Come 12 noon everything shuts for one hour and I mean everything. Shops, police stations, embassies, government departments, clinics and fire stations all close down. You may ask what does the majority of New Caledonians do in this time period. The answer is simple. Eat! Eating, undisturbed, is a New Caledonian ritual which cannot be broken. No one in this country eats on the run like in Australia. They must stop what they are doing and have a gourmet lunch. I personally think they look forward to it every day. Another thing the community looks forward to is public holidays. There are more of them than working days. In fact some public holidays are granted two extra public holidays after it.

Irrespective of all this craziness, I am still a member of this community. I belong to it. I know that we may feel that we do not belong to the weird communities we live in, but we do have a connection with them even without our knowledge. Though our communities can be full of overbearing people who just make you want to scream, they do in some way or another influence us. They make us wiser, stronger, more accepting, patient and better prepared to take on the world. They are a part of us and we in turn are a part of them.

# Our Community

## Carmel Taig

### What subjects do you teach?

I teach Year 9 English and Year 11 Literature.

### How long have you been working here?

I have been at DECV for a decade. Initially I was appointed for 6 months. Subsequently, I applied successfully for an ongoing position as a distance education teacher.

### What were you doing before joining the DECV?

In the 70s, I was an Arts student at Melbourne University and fresh out of teacher's college I taught English and History in a state and Catholic high schools. I was fortunate enough to be able to stay at home while my children were young. When I returned to study, my interest gravitated to the practical side of art. As a graduate of Victorian College of the Arts, I produced paintings, drawings and prints in my studio at home. I exhibited my work, taught at TAFE and ran several Artists in Schools Programs – busy days indeed!

### What interests do you have outside of school?

I still have the studio at home, but my grown up sons now have it set up as a recording studio and rehearsal space. Yes, in their spare times they perform in a rock band. My passion is local history and I am working on my late father's archives and recording the history of the street where I live.

### Your tip to DECV students

I encourage all students to take time to think about where they belong – not just their current address, but also the people, culture and experiences that shape personal identity. This grounding can prove valuable as one works out priorities and direction in life.



**Raylene Ong**

**Name:** Raylene Ong

**Age:** 22

**Occupation:** Student

**What and where are you studying?**

Currently I am studying at Box Hill TAFE doing Diploma of Graphic Design.

**Do you enjoy your course?**

Yes, I LOVE it. It is exactly what I wanted to do. I enjoy everything even the time consuming technical stuff. I may not like it when I am doing it but I am always grateful that I did the task because I always learn so much from it. Some of the other students only like to do certain things. So they complain a lot, when we have to do tasks that they don't like.

**What are your future plans?**

Well, that's a good question. Fortunately I have given that question a lot of thought over the years. The plan is to finish the Advanced Diploma, work in the industry for a couple of years then branch out and start my own graphic design company. I also want to do the multimedia course at Box Hill. I think that is another 3 years. So I am not sure. I will see how I go. I want to go overseas and work for a bit too. I would like to travel and work in New York, go to the F5 conference and Munich for TOCA ME conference. Also would like to go to Japan and Hong Kong for holidays and shopping.

**You were in Top Designs in 2010, have you won any more competitions or awards since?**

I have won a couple and I plan to win many, many more. Recently I was awarded the Vermont Lions club scholarship. Last year I won the Box Hill TAFE diary competition. Currently I am working on the Southern Cross Packaging Competition. I am also planning to enter a few other competitions as well.

**What Projects/Jobs are you currently working on?**

At present I am working several unpaid and paid projects. This newsletter is one of the projects. I am not getting paid but I am happy to do it because DECV has contributed so much into my life. I would not be where I am today without DECV. I also think its good to give back to the community. However I am getting paid to do a poster for Box Hill SARC (Student Activities and Representative Council) and 64 page magazine for a primary school. The lecturers are also giving me odd jobs as well, which I do not get paid for. It is all very exciting for me.

**Do you have any advice for current DECV students?**

Yes I have plenty, however I will just tell you six things.

**No. 1.** Find out what you like to do and if you can earn money doing what you like to do. If you can, then pursue that career path. Life is too short to be stuck doing a job that you don't like.

**No. 2.** Choose your direction and go for it. Be bold and confident. Try not to procrastinate for too long.

**No. 3.** Go to as many open days and apply to as many unis/TAFES as possible. Start going this year, even if you are in year 10.

**No. 4.** Approach everything you do with a positive attitude. It will make it easier to do the job.

**No. 5.** Learn something new everyday.

**No. 6.** Most importantly **"Believe in yourself"** because as Liberace said *Nobody will believe in you if you don't believe in yourself*



## Beat and Bake Chocolate Cake

### Ingredients

- 1/3 cup cocoa
- 1/2 cup self raising flour
- 2/3 cup plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- 125 grams softened butter
- 1 1/4 cup castor sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1/2 cup milk

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°
2. Grease a 20 cm round (or heart shaped) cake tin
3. Sift all dry ingredients into a large bowl. Add all remaining ingredients. Use electric beaters to mix on low till combined
4. Increase the speed to high and beat till well mixed.
5. Pour into cake tin.
6. Cook for 60–70 minutes
7. Leave in pan for 10 minutes after taking out of the oven before turning onto a wire rack.
8. Ice with your choice of icing. (Decorate with chocolate swirls if you like!)

### Types of Icing

#### Chocolate Ganache

- 150g dark chocolate chopped
- 1/4 cup (60ml) cream

Combine chocolate and cream in a small saucepan.

Stir over low heat until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is smooth.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool. Pour ganache on to the cake then smooth the top and side with a flat bladed knife.



### Daniel Zalec

#### Why did you choose to study with the DECV?

As a serious tennis player, *standard* school was often getting in the way of my traveling and training commitments. Underlying this was a natural tendency to want to work alone and in peace, thus my school teachers believed that I would be best suited to distance education.

One day, someone recommended DECV as the best option. I quickly came to the same conclusion and, with considerable enjoyment, I completed Years 11 and 12 via DECV.

#### Since completing VCE, what academic path have you travelled?

In 2007, I graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Arts (Literature and Composition, Australian Studies). In 2010, I obtained a Master of Arts (Writing) from Swinburne University of Technology. I chose these degrees specifically because they were available as off campus courses. With my overwhelmingly positive DECV experience behind me, this was an easy choice, as I continued to enjoy the freedom of distance study. I also aim to begin my PhD in the not too distant future.

#### An environmental issue of immediate concern to us all currently occupies your time. Can you simplify the issue for us?

'FIRE WATER: Australia's Industrial Fluoridation Disgrace' ([www.firewaterfilm.com](http://www.firewaterfilm.com)) has recently been invited to two separate film festivals in India and New Zealand, with the total upload views for the project approaching 70 000 (on YouTube alone). It is clear that many people in Australia and around the world consider this issue to be an important one. Fluoridation chemicals are the only chemicals added to public drinking water with the intent to cause physiological changes in the human body. This automatically raises the matter of the universal human right of informed consent to medication. In Australia, when authorities forcibly fluoridate a water supply, they are not obtaining the informed consent of individuals within the community. The other major concern, which we cover in the film extensively, is that of the actual chemicals used to fluoridate public drinking water – i.e. highly toxic industrial waste products that have never been formally approved for human consumption, based on rigorous scientific testing. It can safely be said that the average person does not want to be drinking industrial waste, scrubbed from the pollution smokestacks of industry. The best scientific website readers can visit to learn more is: [www.fluoridealert.org](http://www.fluoridealert.org)

#### What is the next chapter in the Daniel Zalec story?

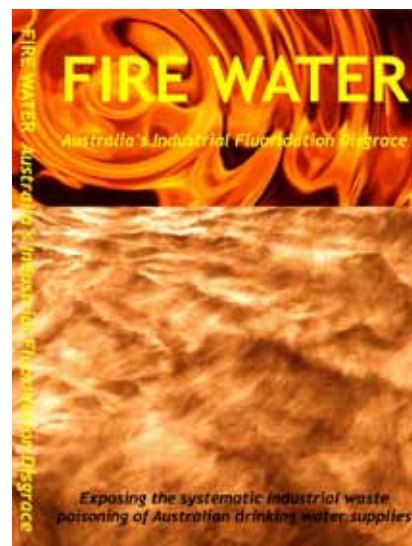
Since obtaining my MA, I have continually explored various professional writing options. The bulk of this work has been scriptwriting/editing, but in between I managed to secure a co-author publication in *The Online Journal of Writing and Practice-led Research*. I try to remain open to various styles of writing. One recent project is *Helix Key*, a Sci-Fi/Action short film that I co-wrote with

Leon Tasi in early 2011. It is due to be shot in mid-late 2011:

[www.facebook.com/HelixKey](http://www.facebook.com/HelixKey)

#### What advice would you give current DECV students – about their studies and about life in general?

Being a distance student can be a lonely existence, but with the aid of sophisticated online technologies, one need not be intellectually isolated. Therefore, network with like-minded students and teachers when required. Stay on top of your study load, as you will tend to enjoy the richness of learning when you are on top of things. In terms of life in general, follow your passions based on your particular skills and talents. As Mark Twain said, "the secret of success is making your vocation your vacation". The worst thing is spending your life doing something you hate. Use/plan your education to make sure that doesn't happen! Also, don't accept everything at face value. Use the skills you learn during your studies to do your own research in order to form your own conclusions. If you graduate with an advanced ability for critical thinking and inquiry, then you are truly educated. By default, be prepared to tackle tough issues.



# Student Information

## Careers, Open Days and Important Dates

August is when most Open Days are held. ATTENDING Open Days is really important, especially if you intend to apply for a course that requires an interview, folio presentation or audition.

You'll find more events in the Careers Calendar 2011 and Career News, found in the DECV Careers website.

Go to [www.distance.vic.edu.au](http://www.distance.vic.edu.au)

Click on **log on**

Your login is your DECV number and your password is your 8 digit date of birth in reverse (YYYYMMDD). For example, if your date of birth is 21 July, 1992, then your password is 19920721. Click on **Careers** for the latest information including **career news** and events, updated throughout the year.

**Skillex is the new vocational, education, training and employment event.**

### Melbourne Showgrounds, 25 to 27 August 2011

Showcasing industry in states across Australia facing current and future skill shortages, the event is held over 3 days from Thursday to Saturday at a leading venue and will be FREE to the general public.

**Skillex** is dedicated to all skilled areas, vocational education and training including both traditional and non-traditional trades as well as healthcare, IT, retail, hospitality and tourism, hair and beauty and business services.

**Skillex will be of great value to:**

- young people and their parents, and all people interested in finding out more about careers in the skill sectors, trades and key growth industries;
- people interested in finding out more about vocational education, training and employment opportunities;
- students looking for an apprenticeship, traineeship, cadetship or work experience;
- graduates, local and international students, career advisers and teachers.

Visitors will be taken on a unique skills journey of career advice, education and training options, interactive area to employment opportunities with the objective that they take on a career, job or retrain in a skill short industry.

Please see further information and register at <http://www.skillex.com.au/>

|   |   |
|---|---|
| August is open day month for many tertiary institutions |   |
| 1   | <a href="#">VTAC applications open</a>  |
| 4, 10   | <a href="#">Melbourne University information evenings various locations</a>   |
| 5   | <a href="#">Careers in Conservation Melbourne Zoo</a>   |
| 6   | <a href="#">Monash University (Berwick, Gippsland and Peninsula)</a>  |
| 7   | <a href="#">Monash University (College Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville)</a><br><a href="#">La Trobe University (Melbourne)</a><br><a href="#">William Angliss TAFE</a>   |
| 12  | <a href="#">La Trobe University (Shepparton)</a>  |
| 14  | <a href="#">Australian Catholic University Melbourne</a><br><a href="#">Australian Academy Design</a><br><a href="#">Deakin University (Warrnambool)</a><br><a href="#">La Trobe University (Mildura)</a><br><a href="#">RMIT (University and TAFE)</a><br><a href="#">Australian College of Sports Therapy</a> |
| 17  | <a href="#">Australian College of Sports Therapy</a>  |
| 20  | <a href="#">Holmesglen TAFE</a>   |
| 21  | <a href="#">Deakin University (Geelong)</a><br><a href="#">La Trobe University (Albury/Wodonga)</a><br><a href="#">Swinburne University (Hawthorn, Lilydale and Prahran)</a><br><a href="#">University of Melbourne (Parkville and Southbank)</a><br><a href="#">Gordon Institute of TAFE</a>                   |
| 28  | <a href="#">Australian Catholic University (Ballarat)</a><br><a href="#">University of Ballarat</a><br><a href="#">Box Hill Institute</a><br><a href="#">Deakin University (Burwood)</a><br><a href="#">La Trobe University (Bendigo)</a>   |
| September   |   |
| 11,14   | <a href="#">Australian College of Sports Therapy</a>  |
| 27  | <a href="#">Tour LaTrobe University (Bendigo)</a><br><a href="#">Discover Deakin University (Burwood, Waurm Ponds, Waterfront and Warrnambool campuses)</a>   |
| 28  | <a href="#">Tour LaTrobe University (Melbourne)</a>   |
| 30  | <a href="#">Access all Areas: Information about Melbourne University</a><br><a href="#">VTAC applications close (Late applications still open)</a>  |

### The Northern Careers and Employment Expo 2011

For students, parents and wider community

Tuesday 16 August 2:30pm – 7pm

Epping Shopping Plaza- corner Cooper and High Streets, Epping

**FREE EVENT**

For more information contact:

Tracey Henderson (DEECD) on 03 9488 9469

Email: [henderson.tracey.t@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:henderson.tracey.t@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# Student Information

## Applying For Tertiary Courses?

Register with VTAC at <http://www.vtac.edu.au>

Applications to most tertiary courses in Victoria are made through VTAC\*.

\*Note: some institutions have direct application. Check with the VTAC site for the institutions applied for through VTAC. Go to [www.vtac.edu.au/institutions.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/institutions.html)

Before you can apply, you must **register** for a VTAC ID (identification number) and PIN (personal identification number). If you are a current Victorian Year 12 student, your VCAA student number will be recorded as your VTAC ID number. See [www.vtac.edu.au/applying.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/applying.html) for the process.

Additional information can be found at [www.vtac.edu.au/publications.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/publications.html)

### Will You Need To Sit The 'STAT'

|   |   |
|---|---|
| VTAC application timeline:<br>Applications are made online only   |   |
| 1 August  | Registrations for tertiary entry applications for 2012 open. Applications open. |
| 30 September  | Applications close (Late applications still open).                              |
| 11 November   | Late applications close (Very late applications still open).                    |
| 9 December  | Very late applications close.   |
| Application fees start from \$25.   |   |
| See <a href="http://www.vtac.edu.au/fees.html">www.vtac.edu.au/fees.html</a> for a full schedule of fees. |   |

### Admissions Tests?

Some institutions require an admission test as part of their entry requirements.

The Special Tertiary Admissions Tests (STAT) are a Multiple Choice and a Written English test.

VTAC administers the STAT on behalf of the institutions who require it. There is an \$85 fee for each test. See for more details: [www.vtac.edu.au/admissions-tests.html#\\_Fees\\_and\\_payment](http://www.vtac.edu.au/admissions-tests.html#_Fees_and_payment)

### You need to sit the STAT If:

- it is listed in Extra requirements for any of the courses you are applying for
- it is listed as a requirement on the institutional information pages of the institutions you are applying to
- For example, some institutions require that you complete STAT if your Year 12 or tertiary qualifications were gained prior to a specified year
- it is listed as an institutional requirement for a Special Entry Access Scheme you are applying for.

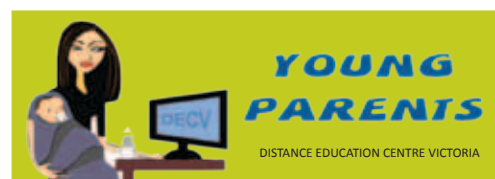
VTAC says:

Check carefully with the institutions you want to apply for whether you need to sit the STAT Multiple Choice or STAT Written English (or both). Don't apply for a sitting if you don't need to sit the test. Don't apply for sittings for both tests if you only need to sit one. You will be liable for test fees if you apply for a sitting (even if you do not sit the test).

Applications for the STAT tests open on Monday 1 August 2011.

See [www.vtac.edu.au/admissions-tests.html#about](http://www.vtac.edu.au/admissions-tests.html#about) for more information about admissions tests.

You can ask for advice and collect



Young Parents Program is a special support program for DECV students who are pregnant or are parenting young children. Young Parents Program gives students access to a dedicated support facility designed specifically for their learning needs.

We have a team of Young Parents Program Teachers who work alongside the Student Wellbeing Coordinator to make sure that things go smoothly at the school end of things. The Student Support teachers can liaise with subject teachers on the student's behalf and organise modified work loads and Special Provision for VCE students.

If you are pregnant or parenting and feel that you might benefit from being part of the Young Parents Program, or just want more information, please make contact with

*Josephine Williams*  
Young Parents Program Coordinator

(03) 8480 0237  
[jwilliams@distance.vic.edu.au](mailto:jwilliams@distance.vic.edu.au)

information personally if you are visiting the DECV, or feel free to phone, write or email for career related information. My contact details are:

*Natalia Terikhova*  
Careers Advisor

Ph: (03) 8480 0114 (or toll free in Victoria on 1800 133 511)

Email: [nterikhova@distance.vic.edu.au](mailto:nterikhova@distance.vic.edu.au)

# Our Community

## Visiting students in country Victoria

The DECV provides seminars for students at DECV Thornbury but sometimes teachers come to the students. These two articles outline the travels of Accounting teachers **Laura Fairbairn** and **Stewart Livingston** in northern and western Victoria, while **Gill Mortimer** travelled to Castlemaine to visit an English student.

**Laura writes about her trip and compares country Victoria with her native New Zealand.**

I was delighted to go on a trip into the Australian outback just the other week visiting some Distance Education students. It was a journey from the hustle and bustle of the DECV north to Kerang then toward the Victoria-Adelaide border. It was always a clear indicator that there was a town speedily approaching as the hefty silos were sighted and drew nearer.

It was fascinating to see some of the smaller provincial areas of Victoria and make comparisons to my home land – New Zealand. Some of the major differences that were notable everywhere were the red clay, massive paddocks and *footy* fields instead of rugby grounds. While it was a little cooler out in the country it sure is nothing compared to the frosty morning of Central Otago this time last year.

It was incredible to meet the students at both school and home and see how they operated at the other end – getting their work done, hours spent travelling to school, and opportunities they had. The students that Stewart and I did meet were very enthusiastic. It just goes to show the dedication and commitment to school, learning and education that these students have.

I was given a very educational history

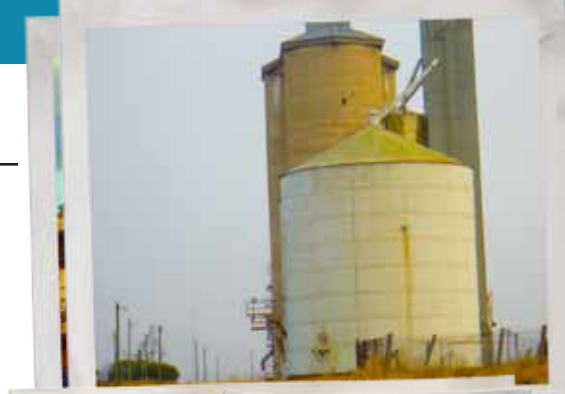
lesson on the smaller towns of Jeparit, Dimboola, Minyip, Murtoa, Nhill and even Lorquon. The challenge was trying to pronounce the names right and this proved a challenge for a couple of towns out yonder. I must admit though if I never see another footy field again I will not be disappointed. Well I have been out west I think next time it might have to be Eastward to the sea!

**Gill continues with train and bike travel on her student visit.**

This term my big teaching adventure has been a trip to visit a student at Castlemaine Secondary College. This was especially rewarding because Castlemaine teachers and office staff are always so friendly and supportive of DECV teachers when we ring them, so it's great to say *Hello* in person.

I decided to use VicRail and put my bike on the train, which made the trip from Castlemaine station to the secondary college a pleasure. It's not every day that we get to ride through a historical Victorian town and out into the bush on our way to work.

Working with students in their own school settings is always a pleasure and an opportunity that many DECV teachers like to undertake. We also visit students who are not based in schools, so look out, there might be a teacher coming your way!



# Our Community

## Newsletter Team Profiles



Shulamit



Daniel



Kahli



Erzsebet



Jessica

**Hi, my name is Shulamit** and I live on the other side of the world on a farm in Israel. I have lots of animals and love spending time with them. I study at DECV because I found it difficult at a mainstream school due to the language and trying to understand it. This is my second year studying with DECV and my first year on the newsletter team. I have had good experiences so far and am happy studying at this school.

**Hi, my name is Daniel.** I'm currently a student in Year 11 at De La Salle College, Malvern, and due to VCE Geography not being offered at my school I decided to do it through the DECV. At first I was told that doing courses by correspondence was extremely hard and that I would struggle to keep on top of the work. Since starting at the DECV I have found quite the opposite, the course and the course material provided by the DECV has been far more straightforward and easier to understand than most of my subjects at school. As well as my normal work, in my short time at the DECV I have already been able to participate in the National Geography Competition, along with the making of this newsletter and so far have found it an extremely worthwhile experience.

**Hi, I'm Kahli.** I started studying with the DECV when I first started school, back in 2001, because the nearest school to where I live is 100km away. Not exactly a short bus ride. So over the years I've had my fair share of the ups and downs of studying via distance education – like the bonus of having no distractions in the classroom, and the downside that your teacher isn't there if you need something explained. Along the way I've picked up some useful tips; most importantly not to give up and put work off for later – even if you lose motivation, remember the work can be done, and will get there eventually. That's what's carried me through the last 10 years, and how I'm working through the daunting task of my first year of VCE.

**Hi, I'm Erzsebet!** I study with DECV because I suffer from health problems that make going out and being in mainstream as such very challenging. This is my third year with DECV (I took a year break last year) and first time officially on the Newsletter Committee despite being interviewed in past newsletters as well as featuring in the Unit 1 English book for two years! I absolutely love DECV; it's turned a lot of things around for me for the better.

**I'm Jessica** and I am in year 11 at the DECV. I love learning – in particular anything about nature. Studying with DECV has been an awesome experience. It has allowed me to do my work at my own pace and at flexible hours. Living on a farm, I have to use the daylight hours to work outside and so I have nights and rainy days to complete my work. My advice to other students would be to not leave your work to the last minute and keep up to date. Once you're behind it can be hard to catch up. Find ways to encourage yourself to get an activity done. You could make a deal with yourself that after you do it (and only after!) you can go sit down and read a book or go for a walk. Also, take part in the extra-curricular activities the DECV has to offer such as camps and excursions to meet students, teachers and gain new skills.

### Thank you to these contributors to Newsletter Issue 3:

Students: Shulamit, Kahli, Daniel, Raylene, Jamie, Jessica, Erzsebet, Carmel and Daniel Z.  
Teachers: Geoffrey Paterson editor, Jennifer Cameron, Angelo Filev, Lee-Anne d'Agostino, Laura Fairbairn, Marie Gulati, Denis Holliday, Stewart Livingston, Lidia Manov, Gill Mortimer, Mary Nalpantidis, Belinda Saltmarsh-Kram, Diane Steffensen, Natalia Terikhova, Katarina Vrisk, Jenny Ward, Fiona Webster, Amy Wennan and Josephine Williams.

We particularly thank Raylene Ong who studied VCE Visual Communication and Design at the DECV in 2009 when she was selected to exhibit in VCAA Top Design. Raylene, now a second-year Graphics Student at Box Hill TAFE, volunteered to undertake the layout and formatting of this Newsletter.



## The E-Reading Revolution is here!

Amy Wennan

The unique nature of studying via distance can sometimes make it difficult to quickly acquire copies of the texts students need for their studies. The growing opportunities offered by digital and computer-based reading technologies offer an alternative to print-based texts for the DECV community.

### What is digital reading?

Digital reading, or e-reading, is the ability to download electronic texts to read on a wide variety of electronic devices. If you have a laptop or desktop computer, iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle, Nook, Kobo, Sony E-Reader or almost any type of electronic device that can connect to the Internet, you can join the e-reading revolution!

### How do I get started?

The great news for students is that many types of e-reader software are available for free on the Internet. Sometimes you need to set up an account but sometimes all you need to do is download and install the software. Content such as books, magazines, documents, newspapers, poetry, audio-books and feature articles are readily available for e-reading devices, either for free or for a small fee.

### What's different about e-reading?

E-readers are great for people who have special needs when reading. Most e-readers allow you to adjust the size of the text and the colour of the background. Many also have built-in text-to-speech capabilities that can be turned on or off as needed. Depending on the computer device and the software you are using, you may be able to read audio books as well.

### What will it cost?

If you already have a computer, smartphone or tablet device, then the start-up costs are likely to be very small. If you want to buy a dedicated e-reading device such as a Kobo, Kindle, Nook or Sony E-Reader, the price will probably be around \$100 – \$200. Digital content for your reading device often costs about the same as a print-based text, but it is often much cheaper depending on what

you want to read. The fantastic news for students is that there are literally thousands of books which are out of copyright that are available for free, both as text and as audio books.

If you had been considering giving e-reading a try, why not find out more online? Search for e-reader or e-books or you could use some of the links listed below to start your e-reading journey. There is a wealth of information available about e-reading online, everything from product reviews to how to self-publish your own e-book. Take some time to find out more and consider whether e-reading is right for you.

Happy Reading Everyone!

Amy Wennan teaches English at DECV and has a deep affection for her e-reader. If you would like to talk more about e-reading, email her on [awennan@distance.vic.edu.au](mailto:awennan@distance.vic.edu.au)

## E-Reader Software & Hardware

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| ibook                  | <a href="http://www.apple.com/support/ibook/">http://www.apple.com/support/ibook/</a>                       |
| Aldiko                 | <a href="http://www.aldiko.com/">http://www.aldiko.com/</a>   |
| Kobo                   | <a href="http://www.kobobooks.com/">http://www.kobobooks.com/</a>   |
| Kindle                 | <a href="https://kindle.amazon.com/">https://kindle.amazon.com/</a>   |
| Sony Reader            | <a href="http://ebookstore.sony.com/howitworks/">http://ebookstore.sony.com/howitworks/</a>                 |
| Adobe Digital Editions | <a href="http://www.adobe.com/products/digitaleditions/">http://www.adobe.com/products/digitaleditions/</a> |

## Free E-Reader Content

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Internet Archive        | <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/texts">http://www.archive.org/details/texts</a>         |
| Open Library            | <a href="http://openlibrary.org/">http://openlibrary.org/</a>                                   |
| Many Books              | <a href="http://www.manybooks.net/">http://www.manybooks.net/</a>                               |
| Kindle Popular Classics | <a href="http://www.amazon.com/s/?node=2245146011">http://www.amazon.com/s/?node=2245146011</a> |
| Project Gutenberg       | <a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page">http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page</a>   |
| Wattpad                 | <a href="http://www.wattpad.com">http://www.wattpad.com</a>                                     |

# For Your Diary

## Upcoming Seminar Dates



| Subject                          | Unit | Date             | Contact person         | Phone     |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Art – Interim Folio Presentation | 4    | 1–5 August       | Mary Nalpantidis       | 8480 0216 |
| Art – SEND SAT Folio Viewing     | 4    | 2 September      | Mary Nalpantidis       | 8480 0216 |
| Australian History               | 4    | 22 July          | Denis Holliday         | 8480 0219 |
| Chemistry – SAC 1                | 4    | 12 August        | Devika Liyanage        | 8480 0111 |
| Chemistry – SAC 2                | 4    | 9 September      | Devika Liyanage        | 8480 0111 |
| Chemistry – Revision Seminar     | 4    | 14 October       | Devika Liyanage        | 8480 0111 |
| Dance                            | 2    | 18 and 19 August | Katherine Hawken       | 8480 0203 |
| Dance                            | 4    | 25 and 26 August | Belinda Saltmarsh-Kram | 8480 0118 |
| English Language                 | 4    | 7 September      | Sally Trotter          | 8480 0242 |
| Geography                        | 4    | 22 August        | Geoffrey Paterson      | 8480 0155 |
| Health and Human Development     | 4    | 12 October       | Lee-Anne D'Agostino    | 8480 0211 |
| History Revolutions              | 4    | 25 July          | Rhona Rosenberg        | 8480 0153 |
| Legal Studies Excursion          | 4    | 10 August        | Victor D'Amico         | 8480 0247 |
| Music Style and Composition      | 4    | 27 July          | Mark McSherry          | 8480 0122 |
| Music Style and Composition      | 2    | 11 August        | Katarina Vrisk         | 8480 0208 |
| Music Style and Composition      | 4    | 22 September     | Mark McSherry          | 8480 0122 |
| National Politics                | 4    | 21 July          | Red Bingham            | 8480 0157 |
| Physical Education               | 4    | 20 September     | Malcolm Mclver         | 8480 0052 |

### Key Dates

#### Monday 18 July

Start of Term 3  
Start of Week 3 Semester 2

#### Monday 25 July

Last day to withdraw from a Unit 4 study

#### Friday 29 July

Last day to complete end of year VCE examination arrangements

#### Monday 1 August

Start of VTAC applications for tertiary study

#### Monday 8 August

June examination results available

#### Friday 23 September

End of Term 3

#### Monday 10 October

Start of Term 4

### VCE Matters

You may wish to pay a visit to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) website and in particular the Secondary Students Home Page at <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/secondary/pages/Default.aspx> to explore all the latest educational initiatives.

The VTAC website has information you will require for making an application for tertiary study in 2012. The process for making an application can be found at <http://www.vtac.edu.au/applying.html>

Stick  
this page  
on your  
fridge!

### Round Table

FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2011  
10.00 AM.