This year has been another great year for VCAL projects. The VCAL team directed by Louisa Vale helped complete a landscaping project at the Bright Medical Centre. The landscaping efforts involved: removing old vegetation, planting water wise plants, laying rocks and pavers and repairing a bench seat. The Medical Centre was very appreciative of our efforts and many patients commented on how well the surgery now looked.

After completing works at the Medical Centre, the Bright Brewery wanted help removing and shifting some of their plants to get ready for their new building. The VCAL students again did a terrific job and were rewarded with as many pizzas as they could eat.

The VCAL students also took up the challenge of painting a chessboard for the primary students. At first this looked like an easy job but in fact turned out to be quite challenging. Due to the wet weather, the paint kept peeling and cracking. However, when the weather warmed up towards the end of the year the VCAL students had another attempt and this time the chessboard looks great. We hope the primary students enjoy many hours of fun playing chess.

This year has also seen an update to the pizza shed. The old shed was built by students from recycled materials over a two year period. The construction of the shed and pizza oven was a great effort and just goes to show what a determined group of people can build when they put their minds and energy into a project. Now with the new shed built, we will be able to complete further great VCAL projects.

VCAL students continued to work on the school’s vineyard. Over the last two summers the young vines have been attacked by mildew but we are hoping that in early 2013 we should see the first crop produced. From this crop we intend on producing the school’s first vintage. VCAL students have worked with the Alpine Vignerons Association and we would particularly like to thank Mike Dalbosco for all his assistance and advice.

VCAL helps to prepare students for their transitions after school and this year again sees some wonderful results. Matthew Donehue has a full time job at Mt Hotham; Elliot Webb gained an apprenticeship with SP Ausnet; Ryan Fisher has started his apprenticeship with Bright Electrical; Jesse Thomson has been working at JCR Civil; Nathan Dalbosco continues on with Wilko Cabinets; Skye Keys starts her new School Based Apprenticeship with Bright Smash; Eden Pack is working with Colin Hall as a plumber; Dylan Jamison continues to work at the Alpine Shire and also the Alpine Hotel; Vanessa Twaits works at the Blackbird Café; Taela Stolz at Il Centro Pizzas; Peter Pace continues to work at Woolworths and in his father’s apiary; Drew Carrigg has worked all year in the building industry; and finally Callum Brown has ambitions of working in the Canadian Ski Fields.

I would like to congratulate students on their jobs and wish them all the best for the future.

Russell Wheaton, VCAL Coordinator

2012 saw Bright P-12 College running VET Certificates II in (pictured anticlockwise from top left) Hairdressing, Engineering Studies, Equine Studies and Hospitality as well as a Cert II in Outdoor Recreation (pictures on Page 44)
October

As part of my BackMeUp Video competition prize, my mum and I were flown to Sydney on an all-expenses paid trip where I would attend NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts) for one week, working with professional actors and directors to produce a 30 second TV ad.

I had the time of my life, met and worked with inspiring people, and now I know for certain I want to go into the film industry as my career. I look forward to returning to NIDA in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me on my journey.

Grace Griffith

7C Science class were studying ‘Our Planet Earth’ and focusing on volcanoes. In our prac class we made volcanoes from dough then used baking soda and vinegar to make our volcanoes erupt. The lava was a result of a reaction between the bicarbonate soda and vinegar and produces carbon dioxide gas which is present in real volcanoes (without the heat, death and destruction). Messy fun was had by all!

The Snowy River Campus of the School for Student Leadership at Marlo had five vacancies unfilled for this term, and rang Bright P-12 College to see if we could put together a team of students to fill these vacancies.

After some phone calls to parents and speaking to students (who were surprised and excited to be given this chance), we soon had a team of four students ready to change their plans for the next 7 weeks and to take on the challenge of the leadership school at Marlo.

The students - Lilly Katterl, Jack Raymond, Grace Jordan, Nathan Carrigg and Rebekah Kershaw- arrived at Marlo in the first weeks of term and, after a quick orientation, were straight into the activities with the other student teams.

This team chose to focus on Healthy eating/Healthy lifestyle at the 4 local schools where we will teach about healthy lifestyle for their Community Learning Project, to be completed upon their return to Bright.
In the first weeks of term 4 we had 14 students and 3 staff members visiting Bright from Gamagori district in Japan.

During their stay, they participated in both educational and cultural activities, and experienced living with Australian families in a homestay situation. The group visited the Alpine Shire Mayor, the Bright Lawn Bowls Club and beautiful Mount Buffalo, which they absolutely loved. They participated in a variety of classes, from Prep to Year 9. Our Bright P-12 College students were very welcoming and found ways to communicate with the Gamagori students, despite some language challenges.

Our sincere thanks to the Cocks-Wheaton, O’Shea, Cassidy, Brain, Smith, Vey, Barker, Crawley, Thompson-Basler, Hood, Zambellakis, Lawless and Butler families from our college community who offered up their homes and hospitality to the Japanese students. It’s a really positive and friendly experience and gives all concerned a greater understanding of other cultures.

John Henstridge
Being an exchange student is like going to the circus; you buy a ticket and go through a door to see what is waiting on the other side. You are not too sure what to expect, some people have said great things about it but others have said that there were too many clowns. But yet there you are with a ticket getting ready to try it for yourself. You go in and watch the show, experience many things and see so many crazy, different but wonderful things. You love what you see but question it so much.

Being an exchange student has been the most interesting, experiential, life changing and unforgettable time in my life. I have learnt so much and I am taking away so much that will help me when I’m older. It has also taught me to stay positive when my mood is off with the fairies, to live and fend for myself without my mum by my side, it has taught me to accept people for who they are (not to judge them at first sight). I have learnt to take on challenges even if they are out of my comfort zone and most of all I have learnt to try everything and not to just shake my head and say no.

To sum it all up, at the end of this circus performance I have seen so much, met many new amazing people, made so many friends, learnt much more than I ever thought I would and I have learnt to love and be happy for the things I have not what I want. It is very easy to say that I have 101% enjoyed the show and would love to buy another ticket one day.

Jazz Aquilina

My name is Tom Stevenson-Vissers. I am 16 years old. I have visited 15 different countries, 9 of which I have seen here whilst on exchange. I’ve seen Venice, Salzburg, Berlin, Innsbruck, Zürich, Strasbourg, Verona, Europa Park, Mozart’s birth place, the Königssee and the real life Romeo and Juliet balcony. I’ve been ice skating, lugging, ropes coursing, mountain climbing and much, much, much more. None of this would have been possible had I not gone on this exchange and only is it possible to go on exchange when you are young, so grab it, wrap it up in your sweaty little hands and make it yours. The skills and experiences I have gained from these three months will be with me for the rest of my life and so will the friends.

Exchange is an amazing thing to do and never should the chance be passed up if it arises. Once in a life time you can do it, but once is all you need.

Tom Stevenson-Vissers
As part of celebrations for Children’s Week our P-4 students had the wonderful opportunity to see the performance “Cinderella” at the newly built Myrtleford Performing Arts Centre.

The theatre performance underpinned the values of love and empathy and was done in a way that the children were given the opportunity to workshop their own emotions towards these values.

The performance was action packed with sword fighting, varied costume changes, a fantastic lighting and stage production and modern music to keep the students engaged throughout the whole show.

1/2W, Mrs Young and some of the 5/6s went to the creek as part of our study of life cycles for Integrated Studies. We found a little fish and a big fish and lots more things like dragon-fly nymphs and some segmented worms and some back swimmers.

By Mikka Paulsen 1/2W

Cyber Safety Summit
Flynn O’Brien (pictured), her father Chris and teacher Jenny Young, travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on online safety. Flynn was one of the 1,078 students representing 190 schools from across Australia that shared their online experiences on issues including cyberbullying, privacy and gaming.

The Summit provided students, their parents and teachers from every state, with an opportunity to share their online experiences and insights with the government and industry representatives. They gave their views to help direct Government policy through workshops, tutorials and small discussion groups.

At the Summit Senator Bilyk was joined by Richard Bean, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Deputy Chair, to launch a new cybersafety game, Zippep’s Astro Circus. Popular television personality Kayne Tremills hosted the event, with industry experts from Moshi Monsters, McAfee, ACMA and the Australian Federal Police conducting workshops with Summit attendees. Flynn, Chris and Jenny really enjoyed the Summit and it was a great opportunity to hear the views of people from all over Australia on the important topic of cybersafety.

October was Walktober and we celebrated by having a walk to school day. We had many students walk or ride to school, including College Vice-Captain Will Perry who rode in with students from Porepunkah with Principal John Pryor.

Wandiligong Primary School’s sports day welcomed students from Prep-Year 3 at Bright P-12 College. Pictured are the our winners in the Prep running race: Brandon Paech - First Place (middle), Sebastian Friend - Second Place (right) and Jay Hall - Third Place (left).

A few of Bright P12 College primary students competed with Little Athletics at Wangaratta. Pictured are Zoe and Amy Ditcham, Maddie and Harry Hewitt, Kimberley and Ashley Farmer.
The conclusion of formal classes for our Year 12 students, culminated in ‘Celebration Day’.

Students celebrated the end of 13 years of education with their peers, teachers and families, with fun activities including a barbeque and a vigorous and competitive game of dodgeball with staff.

The College celebrated the Year 12 students’ achievements at a final assembly. ‘Celebration Day’ was an emotion charged moment for many.
College Captains’ Graduation dinner speech

We’d like to thank you all for being here tonight to help us celebrate our graduation. Each guest is here for a special reason, whether they’re celebrating the end of their child’s high school education, the end of their girlfriend or boyfriend being tied down with homework, the end to another challenging year level, the beginning of unlimited friend time, or the prospect of taking over your older sibling’s bedroom. Whatever the reason, you’re here tonight because you mean a lot to the Year 12 Graduates in this room. So on behalf of all of us, we would like to say thank-you.

Thank-you to our parents and family, who put up with our stack load of work, or suspicious lack of, our random outbursts of anger when we’ve been stressed, our apparent constant stream of social invites, but most of all being there for us and not abandoning us, even when we know you probably wanted to. It’s through your love and support that we’ve been able to make it this far, and will continue to do so. I think we can all agree with the wise words of Bette Midler; you are the wind beneath my wings.

We all need to put our hands together and show our enormous appreciation for Ms MacKenzie and all she’s done. She is so dedicated to our year, not just academically but on a personal level. She’s worked hard for us right from the start, to ensure that we get the best from our last year. This year you have been like our mother, our guardian angel and most of all our friend. You are an unimaginable asset to Year 12s and we can’t imagine the year without you.

Thank-you to all our teachers, we know sometimes we can be really annoying and there probably were a few occasions where you wished corporal punishment was still acceptable, but thanks for trying to pass your knowledge onto us. We’d like to recognise the people at school who sometimes go unthanked, like our younger school peers for showing us just how far we’ve come and the ladies in the office; for always helping us out.

I think what we’ll all remember the most are the people we’ve shared this journey with. Our peers and the way we’ve all helped each other. The times we’ve giggled too much for our own good, bawled our eyes out, worked hard, partied even harder and held together strong. Each and every one of the graduates in this room is a member of our special family.

Tonight marks the end of a chapter, the end of our schooling. Tonight also marks the beginning. The beginning of independence, the beginning of everyday being a casual day and the start of our lives. This is really when it all starts, when we can really spread our wings, be shoved from the nest, soar and reach our highest. Now we’ll learn the true difference between school and Life: In school, you’re taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you’re given a test that teaches you a lesson.

Our teachers, family and friends have opened the door for us, we must walk through it by ourselves. We look to the future with bright ambitions. We know that we’re all going to go so far. Max is going to be a genius, Joanna is going to be the best midwife, Tom is going to be a great soldier, Georgie, Anthea and Valeria are going to be up there with Da Vinci, Justin is going to be a buff as personal trainer and Sam, Roisin and Erin are going to get signed with Virgin records and be the next spice girls. Look out for the ‘Excuses’. When it comes down to it we are all going to be so amazing out there. We’d like everyone to give a round of applause for the Bright P-12 College Class of 2012… We did it!

Joshua Kusch & Eleisha Young
Dinner Plain Annexe

**Staff:** Sandra Watkins (head teacher), Fiona Duncan (afternoon P-6 class), Sally Kellett (morning P-3 class), Michael Fay (morning 3-6 class), Paul Hughes (English/humanities teacher), Neil Evans (Maths/science teacher) and Ray Stevens (cross country coach and cleaner). We were assisted by Jo McDonagh (paperwork), Kerryn Britten (money) and John O’Bryen (technology) from Bright P-12 College, as well as the parents and community at Dinner Plain.

**Children:** 61 primary and 11 secondary

What can I say; we were brilliant this season! The teachers worked co-operatively and across primary and secondary. The kids worked hard and went home in as good as or better condition that when they arrived. We had an increased enrolment and ended the year in the black. We didn’t lose anyone in the snow, made some fabulous new friends and provided a first class educational facility to which more and more children and parents continue to return each year. We are also successfully cementing Bright College’s annexe in the Dinner Plain and Hotham communities.

We had a bumper crop of snow which made our skiing lessons very enjoyable and much more exciting. Being introduced by a Prep to her parent as “the worst skier in the whole school” prompted me to get out there and practise. I can now proudly say I am still the worst skier at school but I’ve got a lot better.

Everyone else just got a whole lot better too, which is the reason we come here... apart from good teaching and learning. Learning and working together:

Our theme for the 2012 season was ‘Performance’, so each child was expected to perfect then perform for their class each week. We invited Two Up Circus to come to Dinner Plain to teach the children juggling, balancing and other impressive stunts, and even got into the local paper!

Everyone worked hard in their down time to raise money for the school so we could buy what we needed, learn how to take responsibility for ourselves and not send Bright P-12 College to debtor’s prison.

Our parents work well together for the school and support us enormously. Next year, one of the parents will be attending Bright P-12 College’s School Council meetings to make sure information goes back and forth between the two campuses. We work on the same VELS programs as all Victorian schools, despite our teachers coming from ACT, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. John Pryor is happy with us, so that’s a good thing.

See everyone again next year for our ‘Construction’ theme, more skiing, another wild Silent Auction night, more co-operative teaching and learning and even better camera skills.

**Sandra Watkins**

*Head Teacher for 2012, 2013 and as long as John says I’m okay, I have something new to give and the parents and children are happy.*
November

Remembrance Day

Bright P12 College was well represented at the Remembrance Day ceremony held in Bright. Will Perry, Ellie Packham, Max Gray and Emma Allemand laid a wreath to commemorate the day, Ellie Packham also read a poem and Shannen Cooper was the guest speaker. By all accounts our students upheld the high standards of the College with their exemplary actions and participation.

Jean Olley

Bright P-12 College Year 12 student, Jake Bray-Butler, was one of eight finalists in this year’s VCE Leadership Awards. Eligibility for the annual award draws on a number of criteria: participation in extracurricular activities, use of initiative and self-direction, and involvement in leadership roles. Finalists were those who had successfully combined their academic pursuits with involvement in extracurricular and community activities. Jake’s nomination, and his finalist status, resulted largely from his involvement with the Alpine Shire Youth Council and his subsequent work as the acting Youth Development Officer with the Shire.

The College’s new Outside Learning Centre proved very popular with students and staff. It encompasses the pizza oven and serves as a wonderful resource for VCAL students to prepare materials for their projects, and a safe covered area for our VET Outdoor Recreation students.

Landscaping works on the Early Learning Centre began.
Exchange Trip to Japan
At the start of November, 12 students, 3 parents and Mr John Henstridge got the opportunity to travel to Japan for two weeks. In the first week we participated in a homestay program with 4 out of the 7 junior high schools in the town of Gamagori. We attended school with our host brothers/sisters throughout the week. I attended Gamagori Junior High School with Binuka, Brock, Lauren and Liam. The first day was very intimidating as we all had to give speeches in front of the whole school. There were many differences between the Japanese schools and Bright P-12 College, like having to wear slippers around the school, cleaning the school for 10 minutes a day and having a cooked meal for lunch. We were sometimes pulled out of class to visit primary schools, have a look around Gamagori or participate in some traditional Japanese sports like Kendo and Kyudo. We attended a sports club every morning at school from 7am until 8am. On the Saturday, all the Gamagori J.H.S. students came to school and participated in a singing competition/culture day. Every class participated and tried their very best to win. Afterwards some local bands came up and played their songs, and when the concert band played some of the teachers started dancing, which caused screams of delight from the students. The food was very different as well. We ate rice with every meal, even breakfast. I was taken out to a sushi bar with a conveyer belt bringing food around to the tables, and it was all delicious. Their homes were also different, tatami rooms, futons and even heated toilet seats just made you smile. In the second week we said goodbye to our host families and went to Hiroshima. We visited the peace park which housed the peace bell, eternal flame, the a-bomb dome and the peace museum. It was a very sobering experience that made us all think very differently about the war. We stayed at the Ikawa Ryoken for one night. The next day we hopped on a Shinkansen (Bullet Train) and went to Kyoto. It was very difficult navigating around the city as the major public transport was buses. We visited three temples, including the Kinkakuji (The Golden Temple) and Ginkakuji (The Silver Temple). We finally went to Tokyo for three nights. We went to Tokyo Dome to ride the Thunder Dolphin, however it was under repair. So we rode on the Ferris wheel or the pirate ship instead. The next day we went to Tokyo Disneyland, which was amazing. There were many rides including Splash Mountain, Haunted House, Pirates of the Caribbean and Space Mountain. They were all amazing and the food was delicious. On our last day in Japan we went to Harajuku, Shibuya and Akihabara. These were all very different places and very interesting. We finally left from Tokyo Airport back to Melbourne via Singapore. My experience is amazing and I will never forget it.

Tasman Cocks Wheaton
Year 8