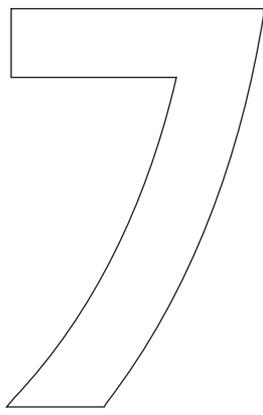




HUME CITY COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH THE HUME GLOBAL LEARNING VILLAGE

IMAGINE EXPLORE DISCOVER

VOLUME 27 AUTUMN/WINTER 2012



www.hume.vic.gov.au

- 4 IED readers' survey results
- 5 Become a Hume Global Learning Village member today
- 7 TechQuest Awards 2012
- 8 The new Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn is now open
- 12 Our guide on how to find the best secondary school for your child
- 16 The Aiming High VCE program

WELCOME TO IMAGINE, EXPLORE, DISCOVER

We have two special features in this edition. The first is about the Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn. You can read all about the new learning spaces, training and meeting rooms, the library, community art gallery, Occasional Care facility and café. I hope this story

will entice you to visit our new community centre and enjoy its amazing facilities.

Looking for a secondary school can be a daunting experience for both parents and children as there is an excellent range of schools in Hume from which we can choose. The second feature is our guide for parents and students – who are transitioning from primary to secondary school – on how to find the best secondary school for their child.

You will also read about our readers' survey results, where we found out which features, stories and topics our readers would like to see more of in *Imagine, Explore, Discover (IED)*. The survey aimed to investigate our community's reading habits and online behaviour. With this information in hand, we'll be able to improve *IED's* content still further and increase its reach making it more accessible to Hume's growing learning community.

The partnerships between our Hume Global Learning Village members are strengthening and growing, read all about the lifelong learning programs and projects run by our members in this special edition of *IED*.

Happy reading!

Ken Thompson
Chairman,
Hume Global Learning Village Committee

CONTENTS



**THE KITCHEN
ACADEMY**



**READERS'
SURVEY
RESULTS**



**THE HUME
GLOBAL
LEARNING
VILLAGE**



**TECHQUEST
AWARDS 2012**



**THE NEW
HUME GLOBAL
LEARNING
CENTRE
- CRAIGIEBURN**



**VOLUNTEERING,
A PATHWAY TO
EMPLOYMENT**



**HOW TO FIND
THE BEST
SECONDARY
SCHOOL FOR
YOUR CHILD**



**AIMING HIGH
VCE PROGRAM**



JOBLINK 3064 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Craigieburn residents are using the social media website facebook to connect with local training and job opportunities through the JobLink 3064 employment program.

A partnership between Hume Global Learning Village members Stockland, Kangan Institute, Meadow Heights Learning Shop and Hume City Council, the Job 3064 program has attracted 298 followers since it went online in December 2011.

An extensive menu of work and training opportunities are available on the JobLink 3064 portal including hospitality, personal training, gardening, clerical and trade vacancies.

JobLink 3064 also links candidates to courses at the Kangan Institute and Meadow Heights Learning Shop to help equip them with the skills required to join the workforce.

The program is forging strong relationships with local high schools to encourage school-leavers to get involved in the initiative.

For further information on employment opportunities or to post a job online visit [facebook.com.au/joblink3064](https://www.facebook.com/joblink3064) or contact **Hume City Council** on **9205 2200**.



At the hubs families can access information about education, training services and other support programs

SUPPORTING PARENTS DEVELOPING CHILDREN

One of the most exciting aspects of Hume's Supporting Parents – Developing Children (SPDC) project is the development of the Primary School/Community Early Years Hubs.

Community hubs are places usually located at primary schools, where families can access information about education, training services and other support programs. Activities at these hubs include playgroup and bilingual storytime sessions, computer classes and English language classes.

“The hubs are a great way to meet other people in the local neighbourhood and make new friends in the school area. The activities are designed for parents of children attending the school and for families with young children who don't go to school yet,” said Anna Boland, SPDC Project Coordinator.

Six primary schools have received funding to establish Early Years Hubs in their schools. They are: Meadow Heights Primary School, Bethel Primary School, Broadmeadows Valley School, Holy Child School, St Dominic's Primary School and Campbellfield Heights Primary School.

There are also three other Early Years Hubs, which have been running successfully for a number of years at Coolaroo South Primary School, Meadows Primary School Early Learning Centre and Dallas Brooks Primary School.

“We are introducing a number of new programs at Early Years Hubs in Hume, including 10 new playgroup sessions and two computer classes. Five hubs are now offering bilingual storytime sessions, homework clubs and are also hosting a social skills meeting group,” said Anna Boland.

For further information, contact Georgia Pierakos, Primary School and Community Early Years Hubs Project Worker, on georgiapi@hume.vic.gov.au or phone Georgia on **9205 2530**.

THE KITCHEN ACADEMY WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

A unique partnership between HGLV members, Youth Projects, Meadows Primary School and Melbourne Training Options, aims to develop a culture of community engagement and productivity by providing young people in Hume with opportunities for enhanced learning.

Participants who work with the Kitchen Academy Project (KAP) will be working in the Meadows Primary School kitchen preparing breakfast, morning tea and afternoon tea for students, parents and teachers; and will also be involved in maintaining the school's vegetable garden. Training involves delivery of workshops in Horticulture and Hospitality, which includes the Certificate II in Hospitality with Melbourne Training Options.

By liaising with the school community, participants will gain access to parents and teaching staff as community role models. This builds positive relationships, provides social development opportunities, creates a sense of community connection and provides access to a wider professional network.



“KAP provides real work experience in a professional and family-orientated environment that enhances participants learning outcomes and employability skills. Participants will gain skills in Hospitality and Horticulture, alongside other benefits such as obtaining confidence, work ethic, cultural awareness and a reference from a reputable entity,” said Christina Osagiede, Youth Projects Work Experience Coordinator.

For more information on the Kitchen Academy Project, contact Christina at christinao@youthprojects.org.au or phone **9304 9134**.



READERS' SURVEY RESULTS

IMAGINE EXPLORE DISCOVER 2012

The Spring 2011 edition of *IED* included its second readers' survey. The review explored opportunities to improve *IED*'s reach, content, distribution and online presence.

Overall, *IED* received positive feedback from all respondents. The survey results pointed out that the publication is fairly well-read, with four out of five respondents reading every or most issues. The respondents also found that *IED*'s length, cover design, ease of reading, content and general layout and design were either good or excellent.

The most popular stories and topics that readers want to see more of were 'latest news on learning programs and initiatives', 'links to websites and other resources' and 'stories about professional development'.

IED is available in both a printed form and online as a PDF document to be downloaded. For reading future publications, half of all respondents are equally comfortable reading *IED* both in printed and online versions. More than one-quarter of respondents would prefer to read it in the printed form only and almost one in five would prefer to read it online only.

"IED's survey results highlighted that we are heading in the right direction, delving into the issues that matter to our HGLV members, promoting our members' learning programs and initiatives and attending to our community's information learning needs," said Marea Ekladius, Acting Manager Learning Community, Hume City Council.

Readers will now receive a bigger 'bumper' 16-page edition of *IED*, twice a year. The magazine is released to coincide with the seasons, the current Autumn/Winter and the Spring/Summer edition. Readers will also notice that *IED* is now printed on 100% recycled paper. Subscriptions to *IED* are free but you must be a HGLV member (see page 5 for more information on how to become a member).

From this edition onwards, readers and anyone interested in what is happening in education in Hume, will find new resources and more online references at the end of each article. Some of the stories appearing here will have their full online version uploaded at the Hume Global Learning Village website. Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/Libraries_Learning to view these.

IED now has an online text-only version for easier and faster download. Readers can download the current *IED*, or any previous editions, at Hume City Council's webpage. Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au and click on 'Hume Global Learning Village'.

"I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT..."

What you had to say

IED survey respondents were asked about what topics or stories they would like to see more of. Below are some of the comments received.

- An audio version of *IED* would be good for the vision impaired.
- Good initiative, however, the promotion of more get-togethers of local educational groups to complement each other's work would be great.
- I use it in my work and it covers my particular areas of interest, as well as making me aware of other potentially relevant projects and initiatives that I could possibly link in with.
- I would like to read more about what other voluntary clubs and organisations are doing at Banksia Gardens, Tullamarine, Westmeadows, Gladstone Park, etc.
- Profiles of local professionals or even profiles of jobs within the community so readers can have a greater understanding of community roles and employers. This might also expose readers to new opportunities and future careers, or volunteering opportunities they might not otherwise consider.

Survey competition winners

All respondents went into a draw to win an e-book and a \$150 Coles/Myer voucher. The winners were Aimee Fontaine, from Sunbury and Angela Foley, from Preston.

WHAT IS THE HUME GLOBAL LEARNING VILLAGE?

The Hume Global Learning Village (HGLV) is a learning-driven network established by Hume City Council with the guidance of the Hume Safe City Taskforce. Its primary function is to address issues of economic and social wellbeing, by creating a learning culture in the community.

Formally established in 2004, the HGLV network combines the collective resources of its 800+ members, who are committed to improving learning opportunities in Hume. It is a unique, dynamic and inclusive collaboration between individuals and organisations, involving both the public and private sectors.

Members collectively work together with the knowledge that social and economic wellbeing is created through the opportunities offered through learning. The role of the HGLV today is to act as the catalyst, facilitator and driver to achieve the shared vision of Hume City as a leading learning community.

HGLV snapshot

- **Established:** 2003
- **Members:** 800+
- **Mission:** *a partnership that empowers people to embrace learning as a way of life in the homes, community settings, educational institutions and businesses of Hume*
- **Membership:** free



Membership of the HGLV is open to any person or organisation with an interest or role in lifelong learning within the community of Hume City.

HGLV members can promote their learning programs and initiatives to the HGLV network and the wider community through this magazine, *IED*, and the monthly email newsletter *Village Voice*. Send your information about learning programs and initiatives, to *IED*'s editor at ied@hume.vic.gov.au and include a media release or brief description of your event or activity. Alternatively, post the information to Luciana Arantes, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows, Vic, 3047.

To have your material published and promoted, you must be a HGLV member and your item needs to be learning-related. To become a member, visit www.hume.vic.gov.au and click on Hume Global Learning Village. It is free to join.

VILLAGE VOICE GET INTO THE LOOP

Village Voice is a monthly electronic newsletter sent to the Hume Global Learning Village members. Members can read all about professional development opportunities, learning events, training programs, scholarships and activities happening in Hume. As displayed in this issue of *IED*, members can also promote their programs and events to HGLV's exclusive database of members. Become a HGLV member today to enjoy these free benefits.



HUME CAREER DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

The Hume Career Development Network was launched in February 2012, enabling school leaders and career practitioners who work with young people in Hume to network, share their expertise and develop their skills. The group includes members from the government, Catholic and independent schools, Kangan Institute, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and the Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN).

"This network focuses on sharing the great work career practitioners, trainers, team leaders, curriculum coordinators and school leaders have done. It aims to give members support to continue developing programs and services that meet the

needs of young people in Hume," said Alison Templar, Regional Career Development Officer for the Northern Metropolitan Region of the DEECD.

The DEECD launched the Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework in 2011, which provides schools, TAFE and Learn Local providers with a structured careers curriculum from Years 7 to 12. Members of the network are working to implement this framework so that young people can develop career management skills that will help them to achieve professional and academic success.

For more information about the Hume Career Development Network, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/carframe/ or contact Alison on 9488 9473.



The Foundation House Schools Support Program participated in a school's transition day for years 5-7 from five schools in Hume City

SHOW AND TELL FORUM

SCHOOLS TALKING TO SCHOOLS

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (VFST) School Support Program in partnership with approximately 10 local schools will be presenting the 'Show and Tell Forum: Schools Talking to Schools'. The forum will showcase good practice and present strategies schools are using to support and engage students and families from refugee backgrounds.

Schools presenting at the forum will showcase initiatives supporting transition, classroom practices, working effectively with Multicultural Education Aides and interpreters, building global perspectives in the classroom and much more.

The 'Show and Tell Forum: Schools Talking to Schools' is being held during National Refugee Week, on Tuesday 19 June, from 8.30am to 2pm, at the Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn (75-95 Central Park Avenue, Craigieburn).

To register, please contact the Schools Support Program at VFST, at pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au or phone 9388 0022.

REFUGEE WEEK

RESTORING HOPE

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. In 2012, Refugee Week will be celebrated from Sunday 17 June to Saturday 23 June, to coincide with World Refugee Day (June 20). The Refugee Council of Australia has chosen Restoring Hope as the Refugee Week theme for 2012 to 2014. Visit www.refugeeweek.org.au for more information.



HUME CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS **TechQuest Awards 2012**

DESIGN IT. CREATE IT. SUBMIT IT.
WIN IT.

TECHQUEST AWARDS 2012

I AM...WE ARE

Creative inventors of all ages can now share in more than \$6,000 in prize money as part of Hume City's new 'TechQuest Awards 2012'.

The 'TechQuest Awards' embraces innovation and the effective use of multimedia technology. All projects need to address this year's theme: 'I am...we are – an exploration of my community'.

The theme aims to explore Hume's cultural identity, capturing the community spirit, expressing it in a diverse and imaginative way through multimedia technologies. The winning project can take the form of any digital medium including, but not limited to video, web design, photography, robotics, graphic design etc.

Entries will be assessed by a judging panel, consisting of an independent group of local community members with an interest and expertise in digital techniques. A grand prize of \$1500 will be awarded for the most outstanding entry across all entry categories.

Registrations close on Monday 25 June. For more information visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/techquest or contact Andre Dumitriu, Technology Guide, Hume City Council at andred@hume.vic.gov.au or phone Andre on **9356 6999**.

AITKEN COLLEGE RESOURCESMART SCHOOL

Aitken College in Greenvale is actively promoting sustainable practices and supporting new environmental initiatives. The whole college community, including students, teachers and parents, has come on board to work on sustainability matters.

"There is a focus on energy savings with the installation of our solar panels; they generate electricity and reduce our carbon footprint. Energy-efficient lighting was installed throughout the school and due consideration is given to appropriate classroom temperature," says Josie Crisara, Aitken College Principal.

Water supply for the college is through rainwater tanks and bore water. Waste reduction focuses on recycling and all black water is treated on site. A biodiversity program is in place. The revegetation program and development of wetlands along

Brodie Creek has seen an abundance of wildlife living on the college site. Thousands of indigenous plants have been planted on the site with the community nurturing their growth and students learning about the different plant species. Students are also involved in growing vegetables using organic methods and the property is home to chickens and goats.

In 2011 Aitken College was the recipient of the Department of Sustainability Resource Smart School of the Year Award. The award recognises and rewards Victorian schools, students and teachers for their initiatives and achievements in resource management in the areas of biodiversity, energy, waste, water and community partnerships.

Visit www.aitkencollege.edu.au for more information.

Indigenous plants have been planted on the site with students learning about the different plant species

HUME GLOBAL LEARNING

DOORS OPEN TO A WORLD OF LEARNING



The newest addition to learning in the Hume City, the Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn offers the growing local community a space to learn, share knowledge and inspire creativity.

The \$17.6 million project is Hume City Council's second largest capital works project in its history. The building features iconic architectural design and includes IT training rooms, small to medium-sized meeting rooms, as well as a large multipurpose room equipped with the latest audio visual presentation equipment.

In addition to meeting and event space, a world-class library houses a collection of over 60,000 items. The centre also includes a gallery and a café providing the perfect spot for meetings, study and catch ups with friends.

Craigieburn Library

A modern learning space full of natural light, the Craigieburn Library experience offers dynamic, collaborative, open spaces ideal for learning, knowledge exchange and recreation. The new library features:

- Purpose-built children's and story telling area with direct access to the children's garden.
- Dedicated youth area, including Playstation 3 and Wii consoles and large plasma screens, together with a carefully chosen selection of books and DVDs.
- Quiet study area and meeting rooms full of natural light.
- Access to the café.
- 18 public computers with internet access.
- After-hours returns chute, available 24/7.
- Radio Frequency Identification system to allow for a fast and simple self check-out.

Connectivity and Technology

Anyone using the centre can access any one of the public computers, internet or public WiFi. Access is free and WiFi is available throughout the site.

Occasional Care

The Hume City Council's occasional care facility is due to open in the near future. The community will be able to access high-quality occasional care for children aged from six weeks to six years. Council will initially run occasional care from 9am to 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Occasional care will be available to event holders or training providers who wish to offer this service to complement their event.

Council is also taking expressions of interest for playgroups in the local area that are interested in utilising the occasional care room for their playgroup.

CENTRE CRAIGIEBURN



Council Customer Service Centre

Hume City Council's Craigieburn Customer Service Centre is located within the centre to offer visitors greater convenience. Residents are able to access information about all of Council's programs and services and make any Council payment or bookings for events. The Customer Service Centre is open from 8am to 5pm on weekdays.

Craigieburn Gallery

The Craigieburn Gallery is an inspiring space, showcasing art, cultural and heritage exhibitions – the first purpose-built art space in the local community.

The Gallery will present a range of high-quality exhibitions, including touring shows, as well as exhibiting local Hume talent across a range of art forms. It will also host a series of artist's talks and cultural events in support of its program.

Renowned Australian photographer, Andrew Chapman, is displaying his series of photographic works from around Craigieburn in the opening exhibition titled, 'Palimpsest- images from a disappearing landscape'.

Landscape Design

The exciting landscape directly surrounding the centre has been designed to create an engaging experience. A variety of structural elements, textures, raw materials and colours have been used in the landscape to reflect the forms and materials of the building.

Water sensitive urban design, such as rain gardens in the carpark, features throughout the landscape design.

The landscape design and selection of native plants will lead visitors on a discovery journey throughout the site, before they step into the HGLC – Craigieburn.

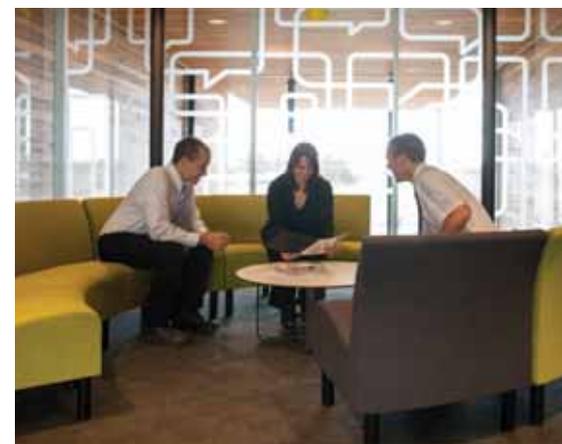
Access

Transport access to the centre consists of car and a connecting bus service from Craigieburn train station.

Car: Access to the free car park is from Central Park Avenue, via Waterview Boulevard.

Bus: The 529 bus runs from Craigieburn Station to Craigieburn West via Craigieburn Road and Waterview Boulevard.

Train: Craigieburn train station is located just over three kilometres from the centre with Bus 529 from the station providing direct connection.



HUME GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE – CRAIGIEBURN

Now taking bookings

Discounted booking rates until June 30 2012. An extra 10% off your first booking!

Host your next meeting, training session or major event at our iconic new learning venue. Contact us today to discover how we can work with you to ensure your next learning event is a success!

Phone: 03 9356 6999
E-mail: glcbookings@hume.vic.gov.au
www.hume.vic.gov.au



Celia Soares: "I gained a huge amount of professional experience and personal development"

VOLUNTEERING

A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Celia Soares, Meadows Primary School Education Support Officer, got her first opportunity to help her community through the Hume Volunteer Gateway (HVG) matching system.

HVG is a free community online service, connecting people who want to volunteer with organisations in need of volunteers. In this interview with *IED*, Celia talks about the challenges and rewards of volunteering in Hume.

IED: Why did you first decide to volunteer?

Celia Soares: I wanted to try different things and explore other areas of work. Basically, I wanted to break out of my comfort zone a little bit.

IED: What was your first volunteer role?

CS: My first role was as a volunteer tutor at my local primary school, where I was only required to work an hour once or twice a fortnight. The HVG program matched me with the school, which required language assistants in their afterschool program.

IED: What did you gain, both personally and professionally from volunteering?

CS: I gained a huge amount of professional experience and personal development. My initial goal for volunteering was to give back to the community in some way and do something that would benefit others.

IED: How has volunteering lead to your employment?

CS: I was only volunteering once a week at my local primary school, and eventually I made the choice to increase my hours during the week (with the school's consent). I could see that the children required that extra bit of support to reach their full learning potential. I was then offered an employment position to help run the oral language program for the students.

IED: Why do you think volunteering is important?

CS: You can never fully anticipate the many benefits and rewards that come with volunteering. It's a great opportunity to get your foot in the door somewhere.

Visit www.hume.vic.gov.au/Libraries_Learning, click on 'Volunteering' and read Celia Soares' full interview. You can also read other inspirational stories from volunteers and see what motivated them to help others and what they have learnt from these experiences.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

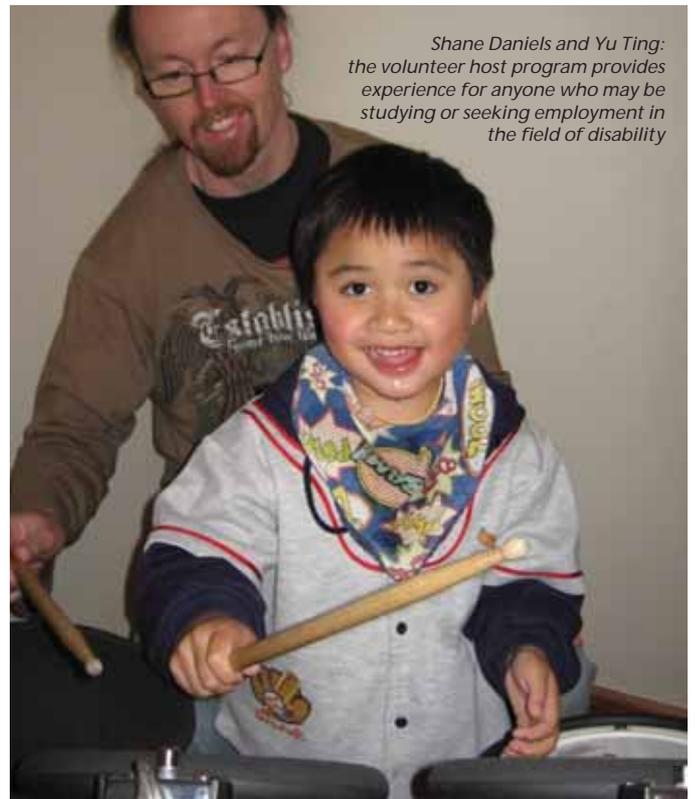
VOLUNTEER HOST PROGRAM

Merri Community Health Services' Volunteer Host program provides respite care to families with a child or young person who has a disability. It offers an 'in house' induction training, which covers volunteer rights and responsibilities, as well as what is required in the role of host volunteer, duty of care and other relevant and useful information.

Involvement in the program provides direct experience for anyone who may be studying or seeking employment in the field of disability. "It is necessary for the volunteer to have training in First Aid as well as Food Handling. All training is sourced by our program and is at no cost to the volunteer. If an individual child requires some support with their mobility, we would also arrange a manual handling course to ensure the volunteer has the skills to provide the support required," explains Robyn Osbourne, Interchange Northwest Program Coordinator.

The Merri Community Health's Volunteer Host program works via a matching system. Individual volunteers are trained and matched to a child or young person. The volunteer provides respite in their own home on a regular basis. While the volunteer is taking care of the child, the families and guardians can have time out to attend to other matters, other family members or simply have time for themselves.

A volunteer host carer can be anyone over the age of 18 years, from all walks of life, single, partnered with or without children. "They do not need to have any previous experience in caring for a young person with a disability and they will be supported by the child's family and the Volunteer Host Program Coordinator," said Robyn.



Shane Daniels and Yu Ting: the volunteer host program provides experience for anyone who may be studying or seeking employment in the field of disability

Interchange Northwest is a program of Merri Community Health Services. For more information on how to become a volunteer host, visit www.mchs.org.au or email Robyn Osbourne, Volunteer Host Program Coordinator, at RobynO@mchs.org.au or phone Robyn on **8319 7470**.

TEACH FOR AUSTRALIA POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

The Teach for Australia (TFA) program, now in its third year, gives graduates from disciplines such as science, mathematics and arts the opportunity to start their career in education by offering a combination of university study and employment-based teacher education.

The program's graduates are placed in disadvantaged schools in Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, and the Northern Territory. Upon completion of the six-week intensive training program at the University of Melbourne, the Teach for Australia graduates obtain a two-year supported placement in disadvantaged secondary schools, with a reduced teaching load, while at the same time completing their postgraduate Diploma in Teaching. "The TFA program is working toward confronting educational disadvantage by transforming outstanding graduates into exceptional teachers in an effort to create systemic change in education in Australia," said Jessica Rose, TFA Corporate and Community Relations Manager.

Angus Wight is a Teacher for Australia's Graduate and is completing his first year of placement at Hume Central Secondary College in Broadmeadows. "I have found the school culture to be positive and ambitious. Teaching is a challenging profession, but my work with the students is thoroughly rewarding and the teaching staff are very supportive."

Schools and graduates interested in being part of the Teacher for Australia program can visit www.teachforaustralia.org for more information.



Angus Wight: "Teaching is a truly challenging profession"

BREAKING BARRIERS ONE KICK AT A TIME

The Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre Futsal Program is seeking participants and volunteer support-coaches for its indoor soccer teams.

The program, which has a particular focus on engaging newly arrived young refugees and migrants from varied cultural backgrounds, provides separate teams for male and female players.

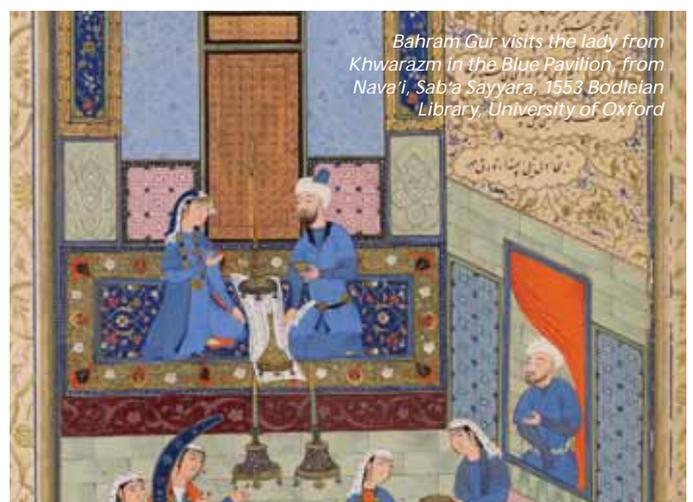
"We are inviting volunteers to help coach young people. They don't need to be professionals, they just need to love the game, know the rules and be available to undergo a police check," said Spectrum MRC's Futsal Program Coordinator, Ronny Kareni.

"The weekly training is an excellent opportunity for the kids to get out and do physical activity, in a safe and friendly environment. We also provide transport, because we know how difficult it can get for parents to juggle work and their children's activities," said Ronny.

The weekly training sessions will take place at the Darebin Community Sports Stadium (857 Plenty Road, Reservoir). The program is free. People interested in playing or in volunteering can email Ronny Kareni at ronnyk@spectrumvic.org.au or call Ronny on **9496 0200**.

FREE EXHIBITION LOVE AND DEVOTION

The State Library of Victoria's exhibition 'Love and devotion: from Persia and beyond' celebrates the beauty of Persian manuscripts and stories of human and divine love, told through their pages from the early 11th Century onwards. The free exhibition will be held at the State Library of Victoria until Sunday 1 July 2012. Visit <http://exhibitions.slv.vic.gov.au> for more information.



Bahram Gur visits the lady from Khwarazm in the Blue Pavilion, from Nava'i, *Sab'a Sayyara*, 1553 Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

FINDING THE BEST SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR



Mark Brockus, Salesian College



Robert Lamb, Gladstone Park Secondary College



Julie Robertson, Craigieburn Secondary College

IED asked five principals in Hume what parents should be focussing on when looking for the best secondary school for their child.

Choosing a secondary school is one of the most important decisions that parents feel they have to make. With so many choices in Hume, parents with secondary school-aged children are going to great lengths to find a school they are happy with. Visits and school tours, online research and interviews with principals are all part of the process. IED asked five principals in Hume what parents should be focussing on when looking for the best secondary school for their child.

IED: What are the main questions parents can ask when inquiring about a school?

Fernando Ianni, Roxburgh Park College: It is important to understand the school's values. We have, for example, a strong uniform policy, and a strong attention to reading and writing. If the parent doesn't worry about school uniforms and believes their child needs to spend more time outdoors, their values may be different from those of their preferred school's values.

Mark Brockus, Salesian College: Parents should ask questions that relates to their child's engagement in school. This includes questions about policy, curriculum, resources, and academic achievement. They should also ask themselves if they will be able to form a relationship with the school to ensure that the needs of their child are fully met.

Robert Lamb, Gladstone Park Secondary College: I would always advise parents against asking questions in writing or over the phone – it is better to take a tour and make sure it is during normal school hours. Talk to the students, say 'hello' to the teachers. If you are talking to the principal, ask about homework, discipline and extra-curricular activities.

Glenn Proctor, Hume Central Secondary College: The main questions to ask are 'what does the curriculum offer? How much of it is dedicated to Mathematics and English? What are the sporting activities provided? What are your lunchtime activities? What steps will you take to settle my children in to school?' and 'How can we, as parents, help?'

Julie Robertson, Craigieburn Secondary College: The main questions we receive from parents focus on the type of programs that support students emotionally and academically. Parents also ask about our school's VCE results. These, along with data on the My School website, give parents an idea of the value a school adds to student learning.

IED: What is your school's approach to bullying?

Fernando Ianni, Roxburgh Park College: There are two courses of action: you have to work with the person who is being bullied and with the perpetrators, and partner with their parents. We have a system here, that if the kids don't want to come forward and talk about it, they can anonymously talk about these issues online.

Mark Brockus, Salesian College: We are committed to ensuring that bullying is not acceptable. Through our pastoral programs, students work on the skills required to resolve conflict and to be aware of the dangers surrounding bullying in all its forms. Parents are encouraged to contact the school should they wish to report a suspected case of bullying.

Robert Lamb, Gladstone Park Secondary College: Bullying is never tolerated, whether it is the easy to pick type of bullying like physical violence, or the more insidious bullying like cruel comments and exclusion. Any principal who tells you there is no bullying at their school is either lying or has their head in the sand about it.

YOUR CHILD



Glenn Proctor, Hume Central Secondary College



Fernando Ianni, Roxburgh Park College

Glenn Proctor, Hume Central Secondary College:

Zero tolerance. We have guidelines in terms of managing bullying behaviour, re-educating who is doing the bullying and supporting the one who is suffering it. We spend a lot of time working with our staff and helping them to identify the verbal, direct, indirect bullying actions.

Julie Robertson, Craigieburn Secondary College:

Our college has a very clear policy on harassment with a zero tolerance on bullying. Anti-bullying and harassment programs are integrated into the college curriculum and are supported by special programs such as harmony days and personal learning programs.

IED: What was the most interesting or unforgettable question you were asked in a parent-principal's interview?

Fernando Ianni, Roxburgh Park College:

All parents' questions are relevant and valuable, they really want their child to feel they are safe. Once I had parents asking me why secondary school starts at a certain time that doesn't match with primary school's starting time. They are sometimes just unaware of the year seven structure.

For more information on the schools featured in this report, visit:

ROXBURGH PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE
www.roxburghcollege.vic.edu.au

SALESIAN COLLEGE RUPERTSWOOD SUNBURY
www.scr.vic.edu.au

GLADSTONE PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE
www.gladstoneparksc.vic.edu.au

HUME CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE
www.humecentralsc.vic.edu.au

CRAIGIEBURN SECONDARY COLLEGE
www.craigieburnsc.vic.edu.au



Mark Brockus, Salesian College: I was once asked to explain what possessed me to want to be a principal of such a large and diverse school! My answer? I wished to lead a school community where all students can experience success in their learning and where faith is the 'glue' that holds that community together.

Robert Lamb, Gladstone Park Secondary College: Years ago, I was showing a potential new parent around the school and he was complaining about his child's previous school. He claimed that the school's principal was out-of-touch. Then he looked at my name badge and said, 'That's strange – she had the same surname as you!' 'Yes', I said, 'that's my wife.' He didn't enrol his child here!

Glenn Proctor, Hume Central Secondary College: I was once asked about our lockers and the size of our new lockers, whether they were safe and whether they fit everything in.

Julie Robertson, Craigieburn Secondary College: Parents ask questions about very similar issues when they meet with teachers or principals. I would encourage parents to ask all of the questions they have no matter how silly they think they may sound.

IED: How do parents get the most practical and useful information about secondary schools? (My School website, online data)

Fernando Ianni, Roxburgh Park College: The best way to get an opinion is to spend some time walking through the school, don't look only at the gymnasium, computer rooms, halls, but check to see if the kids are engaged. Look beyond the facilities, as the core of our business is really teaching and learning.

Mark Brockus, Salesian College: I would encourage parents to ask lots of questions. This can happen as part of an Open Day, school visit or simply just by 'asking around'. Data can be very useful, but there is no substitute than forming a list of questions important to you and asking these directly to the students, parents, staff and principal.

Robert Lamb, Gladstone Park Secondary College: Don't trust any website – in general, the information on there is useless. Instead, ask other parents and current students. Above all, trust your own judgement and visit the school during normal school hours.

Glenn Proctor, Hume Central Secondary College: You can visit the website, visit the school and see for yourself how settled the students are. Go and visit and see what they are doing. Find out how the technology classes are operated. Check the school anti-bullying policy.

Julie Robertson, Craigieburn Secondary College: Parents will need to do their research to find the school that fits their child best. It's important to visit schools particularly during class time, so that you have an opportunity to observe learning experiences.



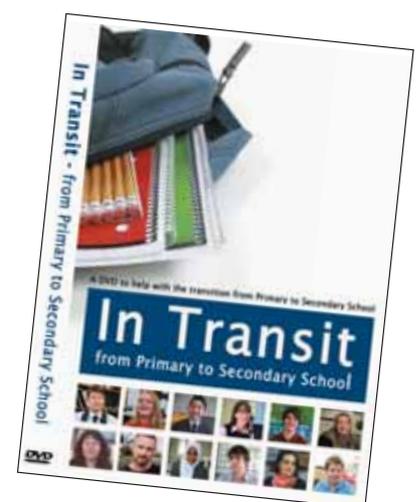
IN TRANSIT DVD GET READY FOR SCHOOL

The 'In Transit from Primary to Secondary School' DVD aims to empower and support students, parents and schools in achieving a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

The DVD builds on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's (DEECD) 'Welcome to Secondary School: A Parent's Guide to Victorian Secondary Schools' resource and covers vital aspects of year six and seven transition such as preparing for secondary school, growing up, life at secondary school, student engagement, and parents being informed and involved in their children's education.

The DVD is already very popular and a highly-sought resource among schools, parents and community organisations. It is now available on YouTube and can be viewed at www.hwlllen.com.au/resources.

A copy of the DVD can be obtained from Uniting Care Sunshine and Broadmeadows and Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network for \$10 (including postage and handling). For further information or to request an order form email Cemile Yuksel, Partnership Broker Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network, at cemile.y@hwlllen.com.au or phone Cemile on 9309 5500.



The In Transit DVD was developed by Broadmeadows Communities for Children and supported by the Hume Early Years Partnership, Hume Youth Commitment and Hume schools

INTRODUCING TRUDI GRANT, MICROSOFT

A HUME GLOBAL LEARNING VILLAGE MEMBER



Trudi Grant

Now, every edition *IED* will profile the work of a Hume Global Learning Village (HGLV) member. This interview series starts with Trudi Grant, Education Account Manager at Microsoft, and a proud HGLV member!

IED: What does your role at Microsoft involve?

Trudi Grant: I am the Education Account Manager at Microsoft servicing the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and approximately 1,600 public schools, Adult

Community and Further Education centres (ACFE) as well as the Vocational Education Sector within Victoria.

IED: How did you get involved with learning programs?

TG: I am very passionate about helping Victorians to learn and prepare for a 21st Century workforce, while contributing to their local and global communities. Working at Microsoft in the education space is extremely fulfilling, particularly when facilitating professional development opportunities for teachers so they can use technology to enhance learning outcomes.

IED: How can technology assist teachers in creating new learning experiences?

TG: With the use of technology, teachers can create learning experiences that are powerful, impactful, engaging, memorable, globally connected and relevant to the workforce that learners enter.

IED: What is Microsoft's 'Partners in Learning' program?

TG: Microsoft 'Partners in Learning' is a \$500 million global initiative that helps schools and educators use technology to help every student receive an excellent education. The goal is to improve learning experiences through Information and Communications Technology and

help students build 21st Century skills. We do this by scaling best practices that support governments, schools, and teachers to be the education leaders of today and tomorrow.

IED: Are there any partner schools in Hume? How can our local schools be part of this program?

TG: Dallas Brooks Community Primary School is a mentor school within the Microsoft Innovative Schools Program. We will be launching a new Broad Schools program shortly, where every school can access online, curriculum-based events and learn about developing innovative best practice from Pathfinder and Mentor schools.

IED: The HGLV's mission is to promote lifelong learning opportunities within our community, why do you think initiatives like these are important?

TG: Lifelong learning enhances life experiences, employment opportunities and contributions to the community, while improving someone's quality of life. It is critical for people to manage their life, learning, and work if they are to successfully navigate their way around a dynamic and complex economic landscape.

For more information, visit www.microsoft.com/australia/education/



FINDING YOUR VOICE

HUME SINGS

Hume Sings: discovering your creative voice

Hume Sings is a choir program that enables individuals to discover their creative voice, connect with community, increase wellbeing and unlock their artistic potential. Led by a professional conductor, the choir meets weekly with the opportunity to perform a number of times each

year, and supper is provided at the end with a chance for members to build networks and friendships.

No experience is necessary and new members are always welcome. Hume Sings meets on Wednesdays from 6pm–7.15pm at the Homestead Community

and Learning Centre (30 Whitshire Drive, Roxburgh Park). For more information, simply come along or contact Creativity Australia via email enquires@cal.org.au or phone **8679 6088**.



AIMING HIGH VCE PROGRAM

The Aiming High VCE program is a homework club pilot program being trialled in Hume City. It is different to most homework clubs because it aims to provide students with broad support for their VCE studies rather than focussing only on homework.

Volunteer tutors work with students to identify their goals for VCE and then plan together how they can achieve these goals. The students learn how to improve their studying skills and receive information about applications for further study. "We are piloting the program this year, with a view to expanding it in the future if it is successful. We will be working closely with schools to track our students' progress throughout the year," said Emma Phillips, Hume Libraries' Youth Engagement Officer.

The program is run in partnership with HGLV members, Banksia Gardens Community Centre, the Centre for Multicultural Youth and The Smith Family. Participant schools include Hume Central Secondary College, Gladstone Park Secondary College, Roxburgh Park College and Kangan Institute.

The Aiming High VCE program runs on Thursdays from 4pm to 6pm during school terms at Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows. For more information email Emma Phillips, Youth Engagement Officer, Hume Libraries or call Emma on **9356 6900**.

HUME LIBRARIES NEW OPERATING HOURS

The Age and Craigieburn Libraries have extended their operating hours. The longer opening hours will provide you with greater access to the libraries' resources and services.

The Age Library, located at the Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows and the Craigieburn Library, located at the Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn, are now operating Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 8pm; Friday from 10am to 5pm; Saturday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm.

For more information visit:
www.humelibraries.vic.gov.au



HUME LIBRARIES

www.humelibraries.vic.gov.au

The Age Library

Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows, 3047
Phone 03 9356 6900

Craigieburn Library

Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn
75-95 Central Park Avenue, Craigieburn, 3064
Phone 03 9356 6980

Gladstone Park Community Library

59 Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn, 3064
Phone 03 9356 6980

Sunbury Library

44 Macedon Street, Sunbury, 3429
Phone 03 9356 6970

Tullamarine Library

58 Spring Street, Tullamarine, 3043
Phone 03 9356 6966

Hume Mobile Library

The Hume Mobile Library operates on a weekly timetable across Campbellfield, Coolaroo, Dallas, Greenvale, Meadow Heights and Roxburgh Park.
Phone 03 9356 6980

HumeLink

Hume City Council's multilingual telephone information service.

General enquiries phone **9205 2200**

للمعلومات باللغة العربية 9679 9815

معلوماتك بآبغة 9679 9809

Za informacije na **bosanskom** 9679 9816

Za informacije na **hrvatskom** 9679 9817

Για πληροφορίες στα **ελληνικά** 9679 9818

Per avere informazioni in **italiano** 9679 9819

Za informacije na **srpskom** 9679 9820

Para información en **español** 9679 9821

Türkçe bilgi için 9679 9822

Muốn biết thông tin tiếng **Việt** 9679 9823

For other languages... 9679 9824

Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows

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The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views or opinions shared by the Hume Global Learning Village and Hume City Council.