From the Principal’s Desk

End of Semester
The end of semester one occurred on Friday 6 June. On behalf of all of the staff at the college I would like to congratulate the vast majority of students who have successfully completed the various VCE units, VCAL modules and VET competencies.

For many students and parents the exposure to the rigors of the VCE, VCAL and VET requirements has been a new experience. Our Year 11 students have now experienced the first of four semesters to complete their studies. On reflection many would agree that there have been some lessons learnt.

Perhaps the most powerful of these messages is the need to be in class all of the time. Attending all classes regularly and punctually enables a student to participate fully in the educational process. Students benefit by the exposure to the conversation, argument, reflection and general discussion that the classroom environment fosters. They have direct communication with their teachers and benefit from receiving timely feedback on their work. It is widely recognized that feedback is one of the most powerful learning tools available to students and teachers.

Attendance rates for Swinburne Senior SC remain amongst the highest in the State for Years 11 and 12. Clearly most of our students understand the importance of their full participation.

I sincerely hope that for the small number of students who have been disappointed with their semester one results take heed of what their peers are doing to be successful. As outlined above, for those starting out on the two-year journey, some valuable lessons have been learnt. It would be foolish for them to make the same mistakes again.

College Play: After Dinner
This year’s play, After Dinner, ran from Tuesday 20 May to Saturday 24 May in the Cottage Theatre. The play received fabulous reviews from teachers, parents, students and members of the community.

The VCE Unit 3 Theatre Studies students worked tirelessly for many months, often working through late evenings and over the weekend. They were supported by students from our Year 11 Theatre Studies and intermediate VCAL classes. Congratulations to everyone involved in putting together such a high quality and professional production.

Assistant Principal’s News
June has been a busy period for students having just completed their mid-year practice examinations in English studies and the VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT). I would like to congratulate our students for the way they approached these important tasks. Semester one reports will be uploaded on Compass and available to parents on Friday 27 June at 4:00pm.

We are at the time of the year where students should be accessing Compass School Manager for daily news feeds regarding different events, workshops and guest speakers from
tertiary institutions which are regularly posted by the careers team. Year 12 students should be accessing university websites regarding scholarships and open days. There is a broad range of scholarships for which students may apply. It is worth applying for as many as possible, as each year there are quite a few not taken up.

The annual School Formal at Leonda by the Yarra (2 Wallen Road Hawthorn), is fast approaching on Tuesday 22 July. The starting time is 7:00pm, so students are advised to arrive on time.

Finally, may I remind everyone that Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on Wednesday 13 August. Advice regarding bookings will be forthcoming and made through Compass School Manager.

Robert Lewkowicz
Assistant Principal

Career Information Evening

Where is your compass pointing? What’s Over the Horizon?

Our Year 11 and 12 Parent and Student Transition, Engaging Parents in Career Conversations was an opportunity for us to welcome students, parents, guardians, teachers and tertiary institutions to Swinburne Senior Secondary College. The career journey for students is not always a simple pathway and we thank all who attended and contributed to the success of the evening. While Year 12 students will apply for their choices for 2015 in term 3, Year 11 students will continue to explore and decide on the choices available for post-secondary schooling.

The positive feedback from institutions and the school community will see the event become a permanent event in the following years.

All universities and TAFE Institutes hold annual Open Days. These give you the opportunity to visit, ask questions, see facilities, find out what is on offer, collect information and see which best suits your needs. Open Days are mainly held in term 3, mainly on Sundays. Organise which Open days in July and August you plan to attend and access their programs for the day on their websites.

A reminder that The Career Information Presentation, the dates for term three OPEN DAYS and the weekly Career Newsletter are available on the school website. The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) details will be published on the school website in the first week of term 3. Year 12 students will continue to book appointments to discuss their options, parents are welcome to attend.

Jackie Love and Annelyn Bolle
Careers Advisors

Welcome New Year 11 Students

The Year 11 cohort has welcomed 25 new students into the ranks for semester two. These students have come from a wide range of schools, both locally and also from interstate!

The students were greeted on Monday 16 June by the Year 11 Management team and the Principal, Michael O’Brien. They were all very keen to get their life at Swinburne under way, and we would like to congratulate them on their choice to take responsibility for their own learning and the move for semester two.

The week ended on Friday with a very yummy lunch provided by our lovely canteen staff, where the new
students were able to reflect on their first week and feedback to us how they had settled in. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces at the end of what must have been a very nervous but also obviously exciting week!

The Year 11 team and all of the staff, students and parents would again like to welcome out new students and wish them all the best for the remainder of their time here at Swinburne.

Roy, Emily and Mike  
Year 11 Managers

Change of Personal Details
We are currently working through the process of updating our database with personal details. If you have changed any information please forward the changes to our General Office staff, Florence, Gail or Judy.

As this newsletter is distributed electronically via email it is important that we have your current email address recorded accurately.

Music Nights
The first of two mid-year music events was held in the college auditorium on Tuesday 17 June. Our music students performed with an array of instruments with even one student playing a sitar.

The performers were ably supported by students from our VET Technical Production courses so that they looked and sounded as good as they could possibly be.

One of the highlights of the year is undoubtedly the music evening at Dizzy's Jazz Club in Richmond. Students gathered at this fabulous venue on Tuesday 24 June, with many people arriving after battling severe weather conditions. The environment at Dizzy's provided a much more pleasant and warmer environment. The array of talent on display was quite mind blowing with too many highlights to mention individuals. The night provided a lovely reminder to all those present that it is a great privilege to see such wonderful young talent on display.
Information Evening

Each year the college conducts an information evening for prospective students and their parents. This year’s event was very well attended with approximately 250 people attending. All teachers were on hand to discuss the studies that we have on offer. A number of key staff made presentations on what role Swinburne Senior plays in the state education system. Perhaps the most engaging speeches were provided by our two Year 12 SRC Leaders, Emily and Joel. They spoke about the opportunities that the school had provided for them and the unique bond that develops with other students and their teachers. She eloquently described the challenges that she faced in transitioning from her previous school into one where young people are treated quite differently.

A special thank you is extended to the VET Hospitality class for producing such amazing finger food.
SRC Fun Day
Each year the SRC runs a fun day with everyone encouraged to come in costume and join in the activities. This year, money raised from the event will go towards orphanages in Kenya.
IN THE LEAD UP TO EXAMS WE KNOW YOU WILL BE MAKING STUDY POSTERS FOR ALL YOUR SUBJECTS. THESE POSTERS SHOW KEY CONCEPTS OF AN OUTCOME. ENTER YOUR POSTER TO BE IN THE RUNNING FOR A $50 READINGS VOUCHER. SUBMIT YOUR POSTER TO THE LIBRARY TO BE DISPLAYED AS PART OF THE COMPETITION.