### School Diary

#### Feb 12
- 7E Boho Camp departs (to 15 Feb).

#### Feb 13
- Stage Band rehearsals to 9 pm.
- VCE Cricket.

#### Feb 14
- Possible AEU stopwork. TBA

#### Feb 19
- Period 1,2,3 Whole School Assemblies.
- 7 pm Parent Partnerships forum.
- 7G Boho Camp departs (to Feb 22).

#### Feb 20
- VCE Cricket.

#### Feb 21
- UK Teachers visit.

#### Feb 25
- Whole School Swimming Carnival.
- Primary school transition visits.

#### Feb 26
- NHS 23 Commences.
- 7B Boho Camp (to Mar 2)
- School Photos—all day.

#### Mar 3
- 6 pm Yr 7 Parents & Teachers BBQ.
- Yrs 9/10 Cricket.

#### Mar 4
- 7C Boho Camp departs (to Mar 7)

#### Mar 5
- Yr 8 Cricket.
- Short day. Students dismissed 12.30

#### Mar 6
- Yr 7 Cricket.
- Senior Band Concert.

### The 2008 USA Music Tour prepares

On Saturday April 12, 45 music students will be meeting at Tullamarine to set off on the 2008 Tour to California, USA. The Senior Concert Band, Stage Band and Choir will be visiting Del Oro High School, Loomis, near Sacramento. (Ms Davidson has previously been principal at this school.) Students will be hosted with families for 4 days and will participate in concerts, rallies, classes and sports at the school. As well as playing at Del Oro, the band will perform at Disneyland and the South Pacific bands festival. As well as all these concerts the tour includes Universal Studios, Yosemite National Park and San Francisco.

### Yr 7s off to a flying start!

Our years 7s have had a terrific start to school, having their first day on the 30th of January. 210 students are now attending Northcote High School coming from 45 different feeder schools. The majority of the year 7s I interviewed said that their time here has been a new experience - getting into the work and making new friends from different backgrounds and primary schools. Over 90% of the new year 7s will be participating in school activities such as Boho camp. One Yr 7 said that “it’s quite an experience to explore your outer limits! It feels like a great adventure”. Other students have entered the music department to learn new musical skills whereas others are preparing to participate in school sports tournaments against other schools. We wish all our year 7s a wonderful year and the best of luck for 2008

*Anthony Gabb Yr. 12*
Cybersafety Guidelines for Parents

The following notes are adapted from “Internet Safety for Teachers, Parents and Caregivers”, by Senior Constable Susan McLean, Victoria Police, 2007

Where to put the computer
- Put the computer in a common area of the house, not in the bedroom.
- Parental monitoring is vital – walk past regularly and see what your child is doing, no matter their age.

Computer setup
- Consider installing an internet filter
- Set Google search preferences to “moderate”, at least
- Record your computer’s IP address somewhere

Good Computer Behaviours
- Set house rules for computer use about what can be put on personal websites, what can be said about others on MySpace/Facebook, or what information can be shared with others
- Spend time online together (eg researching the next family holiday)
- Model constructive computer use for children in the house.

Some sample house rules
- Hours of use are …
- No inappropriate (sexual or violent content) sites.
- Exit sites immediately that the family would not be comfortable with
- No aimless “googling” – all computer use should have a purpose
- No harassment or bullying of other people, or abusive language
- No exchange of personal information on the web
- MySpace/Facebook settings must be set to private (so other users must be invited by your child to share information)
- MSN (instant messaging) contacts must be people your child knows in real life
- If there is a problem, our family talks about it.

Don’t
- Don’t respond to rude or harassing emails (keep a record in case of further investigation)
- Don’t allow very young children to use the computer unsupervised

Do
- Do block senders on MSN (instant messaging) who send harassing emails
- Do teach children that the internet is not always reliable

As a parent, be aware
- Young people often don’t have refined expression skills when typing. The intent of a message can therefore be easily misunderstood. Don’t allow MSN or email to replace human contact.
- Three quarters of children will not tell a parent/teacher if bullied or harassed online, for fear of losing their internet access!
- If you find inappropriate content about your/any child on a website contact the ISP and/or the Police.
- You need to learn something about computers – especially your child’s favourite sites, and some of the lingo
- You can start a new email account with ease if too many unwanted people know the old one.

Useful Websites
www.cybersmartkids.com.au
www.netalert.com.au
New staff for 2008

Each year, we have the pleasure of welcoming new staff to Northcote High School. In 2008 there are a number of new faces bringing new skills and strengths to Northcote High School. We would like to welcome new staff members Ms Leah Downey (also Year 10 Coordinator), Ms Megan Rolls (Science), Ms Rosalie Maidment (Literacy), Ms Jennifer McIntyre (Geography), Mr Sean Butler (English, Humanities and our new PD Coordinator), Mr Rowan Hore (PE), Mr Damien Osborne (Humanities, also Year 8 Coordinator), Ms Sarah Grinzi (Art, Textiles), Ms Sarah Green (Maths, Science), Mr Steve Hodder (English, Humanities). Ms Alexandra Pan joins us in the International Student Office. We also welcome back Mr Brad Martin (PE and Yr 10 Coordinator), after 2 years of travelling and teaching in England. Ms Sue Cummins (English) and Mr Nick Murphy return after 4 months Long Service Leave in Term 4, 2007. We wish all our new teachers the best of luck for 2008 and welcome to Northcote High School.

Anthony Gabb, Yr 12

French Homestay hosts required for June

In 2007 we hosted two French exchange students for one month. This year, the Department of Education have again asked us to host two students for 4 weeks in June—probably arriving early June and leaving in the first week of Term Two holidays.

The students tend to be Year 9, 10 or 11, and have good English skills. Payment of about $200 per week is paid to the host family. Although we do not have student profiles available yet, if you think you might be interested, contact Mr Murphy at school on 9488 2342.

Year 9 Camp—Roses Gap

As part of the Year 9 program at Northcote High School, we are running a five day adventure activity camp from the 14th – 18th April 2008. The camp will take place at Roses Gap Recreation Centre, situated near Halls Gap in the Grampians National Park, about three hours from Melbourne.

This camp specialises in outdoor adventure and environmental awareness programs. The close proximity to the National Park offers a unique concept in School Camps. The purpose of the camp is for Year 9 students to meet challenges, work in teams and problem solve through a common experience. The camp environment is home to many native animals and flora so that students can enjoy a real bush feel setting.

During the week students will be involved in many exciting and educational activities such as bushwalking, archery, hut building, canoeing, abseiling and other exciting tasks. All specialised activities are conducted by fully trained staff.

The cost of the camp is $300 and a deposit of $100 will be due by the 15th of February. The remainder of the cost needs to be paid by Friday 21st March.

Completed medical and permission form must be returned with the deposit.

All students are expected to attend this wonderful camp which is an integral part of our Year 9 program.

If you have any queries please contact our camps coordinator Mr Griffiths or myself on 94882300, or email af@nhs.vic.edu.au

Ms Adele Fattore
As part of the student enrichment and pastoral care program offered at Northcote High School students will view and experience two productions the first ‘Verbal Combat’ on Friday 29th February Term 1 and the second ‘Cheap Thrills’ on Friday 1st August Term 3. These productions are performed by young energetic actors and explore important issues in bullying, peer pressure and decision making.

Our Year 9 program runs a five day activity camp at Roses Gap in the Grampians National Park from 14th -18th April in Term 2. The camp is designed for students to meet challenges, work in teams and problem solve through a common experience. We would like you to make a note of these important dates in your diaries and planners.

These events Productions and Camps require a payment to be made at the school’s front office.

- The production cost is $10 for the year to be paid by Friday 22nd February 2008.

The cost of the camp is $300 and a deposit of $100 needs to be paid by 15th February 2008.

The remainder of the cost needs to be paid by Friday 21st March 2008

Ms Jane Archer, Mr Martin Ramsay

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**Duke of Edinburgh’s Award**

Northcote High School proudly supports this international award for young people. The award is about individual choices and challenges & contributing in a positive way to the community. It is divided into four components: Skill, Physical Recreation, Service and Adventurous Journey. The Bronze Award is open to students over 14yrs and we are currently seeking candidates from Year 9. Younger students can look forward to this opportunity in coming years.

To be involved students should register their interest directly with the Award Co-ordinator Mr Hoban

For further info : www.dukeofed.org.au
Trams, Safety and travel on St. George’s Road

As a school of 1300, the safety of our students, staff and community is a primary concern. Our school is on a major city arterial route, and traffic is often heavy and travelling quickly. We particularly need to ensure students are safe using public transport and when crossing St. George’s Road.

We are taking a number of steps to improve student safety

What parents can do

We must reduce traffic coming into crowded areas of the school at the start and end of the school day. As of February 2008, the Central driveway loop and Art Building Car Park will be closed to car traffic during the peak times:

8:40-9:00 AM
3:00-3:30 PM

If you need to drop your child off at school at the start of the day, you may park along St Georges Road past the cross walk to the trams or park along Sumner Avenue. If you use the gym parking lot, please be in the parking lot by 3pm as the entrance is the where the students are walking to the trams.

What students can do

We expect the following of students:

To cross St. Georges Road at the lights
To wait in the safe tram areas
To NOT walk along the tram lines
To enter the tram in an orderly manner, moving to the rear away from doorways

To place bags away from the doorway
To show courteous behaviour on the tram, including giving up seats for those needing assistance (parents with small children, elderly, etc)

We would like students to consider:
Riding their bikes to and from school
Walking to and from school
Travelling by train
Delaying their tram trip to avoid the crowded 3.15 pm tram (so -play basketball, go to homework help, etc)

What we are doing

We are talking to and working with Yarra Trams, Vic Roads and local Politicians.

We are seeking improvements in
The Number of trams
The Timing of trams
The Waiting areas
The Fencing along tram lines

We will continue to monitor and manage student groups at the tram stops and crossings on St. Georges Road, especially at the end of the day.

Feedback and other thoughts

Further parent input will be gathered at the Parent Partnership Forum and School Council meetings. Further student input will be gathered at the Captains Council Meetings. We will consider all options to make student travel safe and secure.

A reminder of the school’s policy regarding assessment and reporting

Northcote High School has a Work Required Assessment policy. This means that:

● Each student must submit all required work to receive a ‘satisfactory’ for each subject’s end of semester report.
● Each subject has determined a number of work requirements that cover the areas of study done in that subject.
● Even if only one piece of work for one work requirement is not submitted or completed, it may result in a ‘Not Satisfactory’ for the related work requirement and for the subject for the semester.

In addition particular pieces of work will be graded for level of achievement

All students should have received a work program and list of due date from their teachers.

As a parent / guardian you can use the due dates to monitor the work your child should be doing.

Important dates for semester one 2008

Year 7, 8 & 9
End of semester / formal assessment period date - Friday June 6th.
All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Year 10
End of semester / formal assessment period date – Friday May 30th.
All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Year 10 examination period from Monday June 2nd to Friday June 6th
NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL PROGRAM
MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2008 - NORTHCOTE AQUATIC CENTRE IN VICTORIA RD.

Note: BEACH VOLLEYBALL Unfortunately Volleyball will not be held this year due to reconstruction of the area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approx Time</th>
<th>Event Gender</th>
<th>Event (Heats if required)</th>
<th>Approx Time</th>
<th>Event Gender</th>
<th>Event (Heats if required)</th>
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<td>10.00</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Girls 50m Freestyle</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>10 - 12</td>
<td>Girls 50M Backstroke</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Boys 50m Freestyle</td>
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<td>Boys 50M Backstroke</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>No finals. Times used to select a school team</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Boys 50M Backstroke</td>
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<td>10.30</td>
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<td>Boys 100m Freestyle</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Girls 100m Freestyle</td>
<td>12.20</td>
<td>10 - 12</td>
<td>Girls/Bs 100M Backstroke</td>
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<td>Boys 100m Freestyle</td>
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<td>12.30</td>
<td>Girls/Bs Bombing/Diving</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Boys 50m Breastroke</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>7-12 Staff versus students Relay</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Girls 50m Breastroke</td>
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<td>1.40</td>
<td>One Boy and One Girl Relay team from each House at each Year level</td>
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<td>11.20</td>
<td>Boys/Gs 100m Breastroke</td>
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<td>Girls 4x50M Relay</td>
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NOVELTY SMALL POOL EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Years 10-12, 9, 8 then 7 Wading races</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>Years 10-12, 9, 8 then 7 20M Kickboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Years 10-12, 9, 8 then 7 House Table tennis Ball Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>Years 10-12, 9, 8 then 7 House water polo competition</td>
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Clean up in the pool spectator area at 2.20p.m. Dismissal-everyone to leave the pool by 2.30p.m.
NHS Annual Swimming Carnival

This is held on Monday 25th Feb 2008. Attendance is compulsory for all Year 7, 8, 9 and non VCE Year 10 students. The event “Program” is also included in this Newsletter on the opposite page.

1. The carnival is held at Northcote Pool in Victoria Rd.
2. It costs $6 if you meet at the pool at 9.20 or $6 if you go from school at 9.00 am by hired or school buses. The cost is evened out to make it affordable for everyone coming. Year 7 students have a separate $12 charge to cover an additional swim day on 18/2.
3. Spare permission forms are available from the gymnasium and the general office which must be returned to the general office with the money by Thursday 21st Feb - at the latest.
4. All parents/carers are most welcome to attend.
5. Roll call is at 9.30 outside the pool on large boards.
6. In all events you just turn up and enter on the day. Events include;

* Novelty events are held in a shallow pool from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. These include Kickboard race, Wading race, House Table tennis ball collection and a new House water polo competition.
* Bombing held at the deep end of the main pool at 12.30 pm
* Diving held at the deep end of the main pool at 12.30 pm.
* Traditional swimming events are held in the main pool from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.
* House and year level Freestyle Relay races held from 1.40-2.20 pm
* Student versus Teachers Relay Race held at 1.00 pm

7. You must dress in loose, baggy clothing preferably in house colours and apply Sunscreen, regularly through the day. No bare chests - all day. SUNBURN can be a problem.
8. Wearing a hat and sunglasses is highly recommended. Bring a drink bottle and food. The canteen will be open.
9. You can win ribbons in all events
10. At the end of the day house points will be added up and the results announced.

Houses are used for all students attending. Year 7-12 students can view their house in the gym office. Year 7 houses for new students can be viewed below.

Merri - Yellow = 7C, 7E and half of 7A
Batman - Red = 7F and 7G
Plenty - Green = 7B and 7D and half of 7A
Sumner- Blue = 7H and 7I

12. At 2.20 we will have a major clean up then all students have to leave the Northcote Pool Site. Buses back to school leave at 2.40. Back at school by 3.00pm
13. Students walking home or being picked up can leave from the pool at 2.30 - 2.40 p. m.

2008 Term I Sports Bag

The Year has started up well with the year sevens in their new sport uniforms starting a 5 week athletic program in Physical Education. They have also been seen playing diamond cricket at lunchtime in a large gym competition. Year 7 begin their new summer sports this week doing time-tabled sport in Tennis, Cricket, Volleyball, Softball and Baseball. The year seven’s also have a practice swimming afternoon on Monday 18th Feb to ready themselves for the swimming carnival held 1 week later. Cricket trials are about to begin with District competitions over the next 4 weeks for girls and boys at all Year levels. VCE students kick off their sport for the year with District competitions also in Tennis and Volleyball on Friday 7th March.

Queries to the Physical and Sport Directors Mr. Craig Price or Ms. Megan Young
School Council Elections 2008

Frequently Asked Questions regarding School Council

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections. You might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal by 20 February. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Can I be on a subcommittee without being a member of Council?
Yes!

John Butera
School Council President
(John.Butera@dpc.vic.gov.au)

School Council Election Timeline 2008

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years, but like the most government school we will work to the following timeline. There are 2 parent and 3 staff positions available.

Tuesday 12th February: Call for nomination
Wednesday 20th February: Nominations close.
Friday 22nd February: Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside School Office
Tuesday 26th February: Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary
Tuesday 4th March: Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
Wednesday 4th March: Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
Thursday 5th March: From this date the new council is able to meet

Parent Partnership Forum

- Give input and suggestions for improved school-home communications
- Find out information regarding School Council roles and responsibilities
- Meet other parents and find out ways to get involved at NHS

Tuesday, 19 February 2008
7 PM, Global Citizenship Centre
Notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Northcote High School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on 20th February, 2008.

The ballot will close at 4 pm on Friday, 7th March 2008.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010</td>
<td>Three (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010</td>
<td>Two (2)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Gail Davidson
Principal

Notes:
1. “Electorate of the school” means the DEECD employee electorate of the school and the Parent electorate of the school.
2. “Parent electorate of the school” means all persons (except the principal) who are Parents of students of the school, other than those who are DEECD employees and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school.
3. “DEECD employee electorate of the school” means the principal of the school and –
   (a) DEECD employees engaged in work at and for the school (other than those who are Parents of students of the school and who neither opt nor are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school); and
   (b) other DEECD employees who are Parents of students of the school and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school.
4. “DEECD employee” -
   (a) means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an on-going capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -
      (i) under the Teaching Service Act 1981; or
      (ii) by the DEECD under the Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998; or
      (iii) by a school council of a State school; or
      (iv) under section 5 or 5A of the Education Act 1958; or
      (v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and
   (b) does not mean a person employed, under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.
5. Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.
SHORT SCHOOL NOTICES

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE - SEMESTER 1, 2008.
Applications must be lodged at the School by WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2008. The Department of Education, Employment & Training has instructed that late applications will not be accepted. Letters and application form will be mailed to all families this week. Forms are also available from the General Office.

Ms Deborah Pyke Student Services Co-ordinator

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAYS NEEDED—2008
Ever considered offering a home to an overseas student studying at Northcote? This can be a rewarding and mutually enjoyable undertaking. Lifetime friendships are created! If you are interested, or think you might be interested, contact Alexandra in our Overseas Student Office on 9488 2334. (Host families receive about $210 per week to host and board an overseas student)

BASS GUITARIST AND VOCALIST NEEDED
Nick Chow, Nathan Gee-Landman and Andrew Timos are looking for a bass guitarist and a vocalist for their Hard Rock/Metal band. Rehearsal times are to be determined shortly. Auditions are being held at M1 in the Music Department, on Wednesday lunchtimes.

Band Influences include: Metallia, Megadeath, Black Sabbath, Pantera, Trivium, Iron Maiden and many others!

DOBSON’S UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours : Tuesday 12.30 - 4.00pm. Friday 8.30 - 11.30am. Ph. 9488-2317

ORDERS
Customers, please note that we will only hold orders aside for 1 week after you have been notified of their arrival, unless alternative arrangements have been made with us. If other customers require that item, it will be sold to them. If we have been unsuccessful in phoning you, then please check the notice board outside the school shop for your name. For payments, we accept cash, all credit cards and eftpos. Remember, we do not accept cheques, but can do credit card transactions by phone. We also have accounts should you wish to set up one with us. Jumpers which have had VCE embroidered on are now back, collect as soon as possible.

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS
May be dropped off at the general office if we are closed, but please FILL OUT THE 2 FORMS they will provide and attach them to the bag. If you want to be paid directly you must supply your BANK ACCOUNT NO. AND THE BSB. We still need skirts, dresses and rugby jumpers.

Northcote High School Uniform Shop St. Georges Rd, Northcote. 3070. Ph. 9488-2317. nor@Dobsons.com.au

Community Mail Bag

MATHS TUTOR AVAILABLE
My name is Lillian Seoud and I would like to offer my services of VCE Math tuition to your students at Northcote High School and was hoping to leave a flyer with the school to be placed in the VCE Centre.

I am currently undertaking my Masters in Education at the University of Melbourne and am nearing the final stages of Thesis submission. My studies are centred in Assessment, Evaluation and Curriculum with my research thesis on TIMSS data. I have been a teacher for about 6 years, specializing in Mathematics education with my most recent work in Education consultancy. I have attached a copy of my CV and will try to pass by the school sometime today to leave a hardcopy plus a flyer for posting in the VCE Centre as discussed. I am currently registered with the VIT (No. 209406).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and if you would like to discuss any details further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0449-805-325 or 9478-4431 or email at lillian@soar-education.org.

SAIL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA—YOUNG ENDEAVOUR
The Young Endeavour is a tall ship based in Australia, that offers sail training experiences to young people aged 16-23. The ballot for first entry in 2008 closes on February 28th. The Royal Australian Navy helps to supervise this not for profit program, designed to develop teamwork, communication and leadership skills in young people. Mr Murphy has details of the Community Scholarship Program, also the full cost options (about $1650 for two weeks). Also see www.youngendeavour.gov.au