Welcome to Term 2. This Thursday (25th of April) was ANZAC Day. It is a day held dear in my family’s calendar as we remember my two great uncles who both served overseas during the conflict. My link to their story was through my Grandmother who rarely talked about the war but when she did, she told me one the most moving of stories, I have ever heard.

On the same day in 1940, her two brothers, Gordon and Bobby and her fiancé Barney left Sydney on a ship bound for Egypt and Syria where they would fight the first part of the war. My Grandmother’s story however is less about the men fighting than it is about the women left behind. As the boys left she recalled how proud her father looked and how hard her mother fought to appear positive.

In 1941 in the same month, two letters arrive. One to say that her brother Gordon had been killed when his ship was bombed in Alexandra, Egypt. The second letter was from a field nurse stationed in Cyprus, saying that she had sat by the side of my Grandmother’s fiancé during his final hours after he had been shot in battle. My grandmother kept the letter her whole life, it ended by the nurse saying... ‘He was not in pain when he passed. He died with his blue eyes looking hopefully towards the sky, and his last words, were tell Bunny I love her.’

As I said however, this story is about women. While the men were off fighting and trying to be stoic, the women it seemed were feeling the pain and moving forward anyway. My grandma recalls how every Sunday when the train was due in, her mum would make the whole family dress up, go to church and then go to meet the arriving train. Grandma recalled no matter how unlikely it seemed that Bobby was coming back and long after some other families had given up hope, the McIllree family would be standing on the platform waiting as what had once been hundreds of soldiers now dwindled down to half a dozen or so. ‘He'll be here next week,’ my great grandmother used to say if he wasn’t there. This process went on for over a year and then when they least expected it, my grandmother recalls, her brother Bobby stepped off the train. "My father who was a tough old drover and never cried, burst into tears"; she remembers; "so did just about everyone else on the platform... except my mum. She just stood there watching. I remember holding her hand and asking, 'Why aren't you crying mother?' But most of all I remember her looking back at me with the reply... ‘Because I always knew he would come home.’

I tell this story because in my experience it is almost always the mothers who tend to maintain faith in their kids when all others have lost it. Uncle Bobby had been a POW in Burma and been treated horribly by the Japanese and it was only on his death bed he ever talked about the war. I was one of six men in the family asked to carry his coffin when he finally died at the ripe old age of 98 and while I was proud to do so, somehow I think it would have been more appropriate for it to have been six women who carried the load.
Valley Camp

Relationship break ups, fad diets, changing jobs, fights with parents or siblings, repeatedly moving house. When we look back over the course of our lives it is not too hard to see patterns of behaviour emerge. If we are honest with ourselves it becomes easier to see the patterns of behaviour that we are stuck in. Whilst most people have patterns that hold them back in some way, for our students these patterns of behaviour are often causing dramatic and negative impacts in their lives.

Our theme for the term was patterns. On surf camp we explored the idea that the patterns in nature are mirrored in society and our own lives. By examining the patterns of nature; in the elements, in the makeup and behaviour of living things we can see that patterns form a key for understanding the nature of existence. On both a macro scale in understanding human behaviour, and on a micro scale, in understanding our own behaviour.

Camps are a place for patterns to emerge. Taken out of familiar circumstances; where our patterns are intertwined into the fabric of our daily existence; we can see them more clearly. Maybe its disappearing when there are things to unload off the trailer and the real hard work is to be done. Maybe it is finding a reason to be on your phone, when there is an important lesson to be learned. Maybe it’s not being there in the first place...

What’s your pattern and how does it serve you?

DECV

The Jon Carnegie School has been delivering VCE in partnership with the Distance Education for five years. Initially this relationship was set up to assist in delivering VCE to our students. Because of the success we have had with our VCE students we extended this partnership to include the provision of year 7-10. This enables us to provide National Curriculum compliant materials, alongside our own leading personal development program in a flexible manner.

The success of this unique and valuable partnership is primarily in the attitude and work ethic of our students. So far this year our students have lifted the standard of work and the relationships they build with their teachers at DECV. We wish to commend all students who are making a great effort in maintaining consistent work submissions via Distance Education. As DECV is a curriculum that is delivered in an online environment this experience is setting students up for a future where increasingly the primary mode of educational and vocational communication and work is via computers.

We are currently in week 10 of DECV. There are 6 more weeks to go and this will include catch up times. Due to the range of activities and camps we offer it may be that students need to complete work out of designated school hours (welcome to the world!) It is important that students manage their time and submissions around these activities. Support out of school hours is always available and is directly communicated to you via text and email. If you or your child has any questions about out of school hours support please contact Kate.
Birthdays

An adult joins the ranks at JCS as Erin Houghton turns 18. Happy Birthday to Erin.

New Students

The Carnegie Community would like to welcome new students Jeremy Grant and Amelia Ransom. Jeremy is currently in year 10. He is a talented guitarist who has aspirations to be the guitarist in a rock band. Amelia is in year 9 and is passionate about writing. She wishes to become an author and write novels. Welcome to both Jeremy and Amelia and their families.

Whilst we are a very tight school community, the students are always very inclusive of new people. It is easy to become comfortable with the people you know well and not want to put time and energy into making others feel a part of the group. We commend our current students on making new students feel welcome and part of our family.
**Dates**

**Term 2**
- **Tuesday April 30th - 3rd May**
  - Queensland camp
- **Friday 24th May**
  - Gender Bender
- **Monday 10th June**
  - Queen’s Birthday
- **Thursday 27th June**
  - Term 2 Concludes

**Upcoming Events**

Gender Bender is on Friday 24th of May.
More information regarding this will be forwarded to you.

**Term 3**
- **Sat 6th July - Sun 7th Jul**
  - Otway Retreat Farm Weekend
- **Tuesday 16th July**
  - Term 3 Commences
Let me embrace thee, sour adversity,
for wise men say it is the wisest course.

William Shakespeare