

Jan/Feb 2016

BRING THA NOOZE



The Jon Carnegie School
Real Life Learning

From the Founder

So welcome to the new-year and also welcome to our newest JCIS staff member, Muck Bevan. It was American power CEO Lee Laccoca who once said, "There are times when even the best manager is like the little boy with the big dog — waiting to see where the dog wants to go so he can take him there." And I think he was right...

Muck comes to us as a 'reject' from kelpie training school outside Geelong and he has been taking us places we never anticipated ever since he joined us. At the kennel, they told us he was 'no good' because he couldn't concentrate during training, barked out of turn, and would not listen to commands.

We thought he'd fit right in.

On the breeder's papers there was a long list Muck's physical faults as well and if you believed what they told you, you would never choose him as a pup. And therein lies the main theme of this piece... Never Let Yourself Be Defined By The Criteria Of Others.

Muck may not be a great farm dog. It's true, he's got the feet of a draught horse, the legs of an ostrich and the head of a T-rex, but we wouldn't have it any other way. From the moment he peed on Merrigan's foot, stepped in my coffee, chewed Finn's hat and slept on Xav's head, he has been a source of joy and pride to us all. But he has taught many other things as well. He teaches us, love, loyalty, fidelity and some of the finer points in life, like how to turn around three times before you lay down to go to sleep!

On countless nights at Lavers, I have watched Muck do the rounds at bed time curling up next to up Storme or Kate; nestling into Finn or laying his head on Jason's chest. At such times, it's privilege to watch Muck do what I have seen no other teacher do any-where near as successfully. He draws away anxiety and replaces it with total emotional security. He comforts kids because he wants to, not because it's the 'right thing' to do. He didn't learn it in a book or during a five year degree. He just knows it. Muck can't read but he is the only

one left who listens to my stories and stares at me like I'm some kind of literary genius. Muck can't count, but show him four biscuits; put them in your pocket and see if walks away after only feeding him three.

He is consistent and predictable in both his giving and taking of love. Whether nestled at our feet on the bus, or ears aquaplaning and lips quivering with his head out the window, Muck is our man.

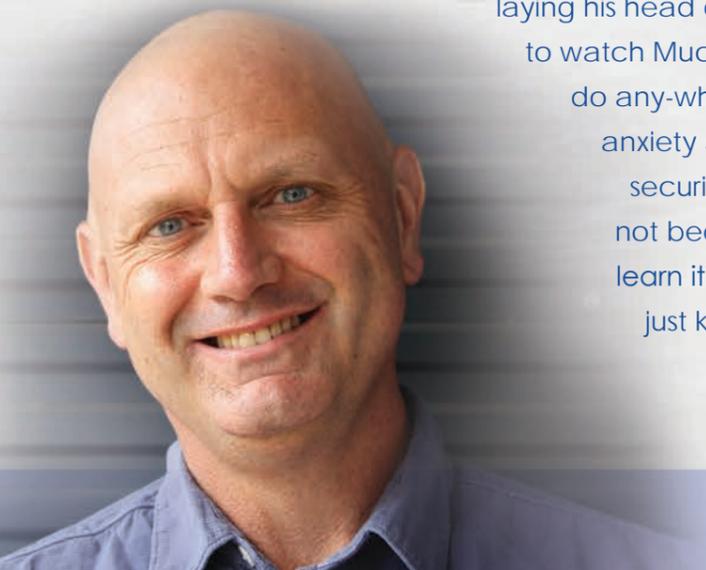
Muck's training is also giving all of us an insight into the power of conditioning. While it takes time and constant practice, Muck is slowly getting the idea of responding to commands. Likewise our students are getting a real insight in WHY training and listening are important. Many is the time I have barked out a command to a student when I see a danger they do not recognise, only to be met with a quizzical face and a 'chill out Jon', comment. However, if Muck ever escapes, chilled out is the last thing the kids are. They see the danger of the road and they respond accordingly. Without even realising it, they have become parents and ironically they are less chilled out than the lot of us put together.

And so from now, Muck is part of our family. And I for one am glad he is different. I love that he breaks the mould. I want him to stand out. I don't care if he can herd sheep but I take huge pride in the way he educates kids and love us and lead us and shows us that in being his imperfect, bumbling, beautiful self, Muck has found his calling.

Thanks Muckly.



Muckly T. Dog



Welcome to JCS

As well as welcoming Muck into the JCS family, we also have two new students. Xavier is our youngest student and best friend to Muck. As well as the title of 'youngest' student, he also gets the title of 'most helpful'. He is always keen to lend a hand and have fun.

Charles is our newest student. Charles is an outspoken and passionate young man, who brings a new viewpoint and way of thinking to the school. Charles has fit in well and it already feels like he is part of the family even though he has only just started.

DECV

VCE students are now in week 5. We want to commend Jason for the way he has approached Year 12. He's off to a great start.

DECV testing for year 5-10 is almost finished. We are now in the process of finalising individual programs for each student. If you have any questions in regards to this, please do not hesitate to contact Kate.

Dates

Term 1

Wednesday 3rd February

Tues 9th Feb - Fri 12th Feb

Tues 29th Mar - Thurs 31st Mar

Thursday 31st March

Term 1 Commences

Surf Camp (TBC)

Valley Camp

Term 1 Concludes

Term 2

Tuesday 19th April

Tues 10th May - Fri 13th May

Term 2 Commence

Queensland camp

Birthdays

Rachel celebrated her first birthday as a staff member up at Lavers Hill. As well as school work we managed to fit in fishing, presents, cake and birthday games. Thanks to all the JCS students for making her feel special.



a reel expert can
buckle anything!

