Principal’s Message

Dear Staff, Students and Parents,

In the Bishop’s pastoral message to the Diocese which all parishes shared last Sunday in preparation for Lent, he emphasised the need for all Catholics to consider their spiritual health at this important time. He shared advice as to a 5 point plan for us to use each day during Lent.

1. Pray
2. Read the Gospels
3. Sit in silence and contemplate
4. Share our thoughts and impressions with others, discussing aspects from our reading and contemplation.
5. Living more simply so others can simply live with a focus on Project Compassion’s theme of Food for Life.

This Lent I urge all members of our John Therry Community to engage with this proposal and improve their spiritual health as we prepare for Easter.

Father

Through our observance of Lent,
Help us to understand the meaning
of your Son’s death and resurrection,
and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

News in Brief

Open Day and Year 7 Camp pictures:
Please visit our Website to view all the pictures.
www.jtchsdow.catholic.edu.au

Upcoming Events

27th February: Swimming Carnival (Bradbury Pool)
28th February: Chisholm Working Bee – 8am - 11.30am
12th March: Dio Swimming Carnival (Corrimal Pool)
25th March: Year 7 2016 Information Night – 6.30pm (Library)

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Ash Wednesday

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
We will be holding an Enrolment Information session for parents and their children on

**Wednesday 25th March 2015**
from 6:30pm in the Brother Casance Library

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2016 will be available and accepted from Monday 16th February 2015 until Friday 2nd April 2015.

Enrolment documents and packages can be posted to you or collected from the school office. In addition they will be available from St Thomas More Primary School Ruse, St John’s Primary School Campbelltown, St Anthony’s Primary School Picton and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary Roseneath from 25th February.

All enquiries welcome. Please contact Mrs Josephine Geer via the school office on 4645 8100

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Please take note of our new

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  12pm - 1:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Caritas Launch

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday we celebrated the Diocesan Launch of Project Compassion at St Paul’s Parish Church, Albion Park. Hosted by the St Paul’s Catholic School and Parish community, representatives from our Primary and Secondary Schools, the Catholic Education Office and other members of our diocesan family, joined with Bishop Peter to pray for our brothers and sisters who live in poverty.

It was a time to reflect upon and engage with significant issues of peace, justice and development. It was also a time to recognise our interconnectedness with our global brothers and sisters and our environment.

Representatives on our behalf made the Project Compassion promise and signed the covenant of compassion which challenges us all to mindfulness and action in remembering those less fortunate in our world.

Thanks go to the St Paul’s School and Parish community, especially Parish Priest, Fr David Catterall, Principal Mrs Colleen Easton, REC Mr Simon Farrugia and all the talented students and musicians. The hospitality and warm welcome and the beautiful liturgy certainly were all highlights.

As our Lenten journey begins, may the spirit of compassion and solidarity experienced yesterday at Albion Park continue to inspire us.

Kind regards, Beth

Beth Riolo Education Officer - Primary RE
Catholic Life Education Mission (CLEM) Team

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Dear Parents / Carers

As you will be aware there are many people in our community experiencing financial pressures due to the downturn in our economy.

As a Catholic School we try very hard to accommodate this by allowing parents or carers to apply for a reduction in school fees, adding the cost of uniform and excursions to your fee account where necessary and supplying uniform to needy families.

As a way of continuing to maintain our buildings and surrounds we are asking for your help. We conduct working bees every term, with the next one being Saturday 28 February 2015. The more parents that attend our working bees the less we have to pay for things like maintenance of gardens and surrounding buildings. The types of things that can be done at working bees are painting, general clean-up of areas of the grounds, gardening and the like.

Please consider giving some of your time to help your school. Anything that is done benefits your children and the community of John Therry as a whole. Another time that you could help is during the school holidays. There are staff on the premises and this is a good time to get painting and other indoor general maintenance carried out. Maybe you have a trade or a special area of expertise and you can offer your services for a specific need.

We want to maintain our school and keep a welcoming environment for our students and their families to enjoy. A clean, tidy and organised environment is much better for student learning and teaching.

If you feel you can help in any way please contact Mrs Josephine Geer, School Secretary, and leave your name, the details of how you feel you can help and a contact number. You will be contacted with further information. Please complete the working bee note attached if you can attend on Saturday 28 February 2015 and return to the school office.

This is a great way to give back to the community that gives so much of themselves for the benefit of your children. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Ms Karen Young

Principal
CHISHOLM WORKING BEE

Dear Parent/Guardian

A Working Bee will take place on Saturday, 28 February 2015 from 8.00am to 11.30am. All Chisholm house students are urged to attend. All students who attend, will receive house points for their individual house.

In order to minimise costs for maintenance and maximise expenditure on student resources and facilities, all families are asked to support at least one Working Bee per year. Families can support these working Bees by attendance for a couple of hours, sending items for Morning tea or plants or by small cash donations to purchase paint, cement etc.

We will be carrying out repairs and maintenance work as well as general cleaning up around the school. If you can give us a few hours of your time on the day it would be greatly appreciated, the more people helping the more work we can get done. There is a lot to do, particularly:

- Painting, Graffiti removal, Gardening/mulching/weeding
- Mowing, Edging, General Clean up
- Whipper snipping, Book covering in Library

If you are able to assist by bringing tools, ladders, mowers, trailers etc it would be a big help. We work rain or shine from 8.00am to 11.30am. Remember even a few hours will help. Morning tea and drinks will be provided.

I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Yours sincerely

Ms Karen Young
Principal

Please complete the form below for catering and planning purposes and return it to the school by Thursday 26 February 2015.

CHISHOLM WORKING BEE

Student’s Name: ______________________ Class: ______

I will be attending the Working Bee on Saturday, 28 February 2015. Yes No

I would like to help with: ______________________________________________ (Choose a job from the list)

I will send ____________________________________________ for morning tea.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Working Bee but would like to make a donation of $ _______ which I enclose towards the cost of materials.

Parent’s Signature____________________________________________

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
**Faculty Reports**

**Sport Report**

**SPORT REPORT TERM 1 2015 Round 2 vs Wollondilly Anglican College**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys Cricket</td>
<td>Mr. Tannous</td>
<td>Draw</td>
<td>A great match between two very talented teams. WAC set us a reasonable total of 72 with some impressive bowling from the JT boys. Both Adam and Bede had to retire after some big hitting. Coming down to the wire we couldn’t quite secure the win, however a draw was a fair result. MVP: Bede Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys Oz Tag</td>
<td>Mr. Morris</td>
<td>Loss 6-1</td>
<td>A tight first half saw a JT fall behind 2-1. Unfortunately simple errors cost the team in the second half. MVP: Daniel Muir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls Oz Tag</td>
<td>Ms. Hogan</td>
<td>Won 6-1</td>
<td>Despite the hot conditions and a lack of substitutes, the girls started excellently and raced away to a 5-0 half time lead. There was a much closer second half, however Hope Torpy sealed the win with a late try. Excellent effort girls. MVP: Tara Lee Bloxsome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Mr. Williamson</td>
<td>Lost 3-2</td>
<td>A disappointing loss in that we came back from 2 sets down to equalise and almost claimed a victory. The start was very shaky with a lot of nervous decision making. More time on the court lead to our true athletic ability coming through. MVP: Jack McGuigan</td>
</tr>
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“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Volleyball</td>
<td>Mrs. Hynard</td>
<td>Won 5-0</td>
<td>An enjoyable and well executed game by the girls. Excellent serving by Celtie Williams. Court movement and communication in all sets was terrific. Set three was particularly good with a 25-1 win. MVP: Akuol Majak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Basketball</td>
<td>Mr. Peters</td>
<td>Won 20-9</td>
<td>Very good team win against tough opposition. Shot much better this week (45% up from 20%). Need to rebound better and turn the ball over less to the opposition. Six players scored, Nick South good all-round game. MVP: Malek Malual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Basketball</td>
<td>Ms. Patterson</td>
<td>Won 24-10</td>
<td>The girls got off to a flying start and scored a number of goals in the first few minutes. The team worked well together to extend their lead and eventually won 24-10. MVP: Rebecca Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Softball</td>
<td>Mr. Goodhew</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Softball</td>
<td>Mrs. White</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**MISA.**

Some impressive wins this week saw JT won 4 out of 7 games. Good to see the girls basketball and volleyball teams working well and improving their results. Next week vs Macarthur Anglican School should produce some close results.

**Diocesan Events.**

The next few weeks will see John Therry participate in the Diocesan Boys Touch Football, Girls soccer, Boys Rugby League, Tennis Teams event and the Diocesan Swimming carnival. Team meetings and training will be held soon, students are encouraged to read the daily announcements or bug their Learning Group Mentors about all things sport. See below for Diocesan Dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; February</td>
<td>Diocesan Carnivals – Boys Touch (Wollongong) + Girls Soccer (Nowra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Diocesan Rugby League (St Greg’s) JT HOST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival (Corrimal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diocesan Tennis Teams (4B + 4G) – Wollongong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are reminded they must have John Therry representative shorts to compete in the Diocesan competitions.
**MISA AND DIOCESAN SPORTS ATTIRE**

These shorts, as seen below, can be worn for MISA games, Diocesan competitions and other State/Knockout competitions. These shorts are only to be worn for representative activities. These soccer and rugby league shorts will match the latest jerseys the school has purchased for the students.

They are not replacing the schools current sports shorts and are not to be worn to school for normal sport or PDHPE lessons.

A shorts and socks combo will be sold for $25 each. If you are interested in purchasing this representative clothing for your child, could you please reply with an email with your quantity and size(s) to andrew.cook@dow.catholic.edu.au. and make the necessary payment at the front office.

Sample sizes will be available at the sports office.
BUNNINGS MARIST BASKETBALL BBQ FUNDRAISER

On Sunday February 15th our Senior Boys Basketball team ran this fundraising event. It was a great event with students, parents and staff working together in the community for a common cause. All funds raised went towards the team’s trip to compete in the National Marist Basketball Championships in Perth from March 22-28th. It started at 7.00am loading up cans of drinks, sausages, ice, etc. onto the school ute, while Mrs. Young had her car filled to the brim with loaves of bread.

Congratulations to all the players who attended throughout the day. The team consists of Gordon Lobo, George Kazagrandi, Connor Salmonds, (Year 12), Connor Bacher, Lachlan Dowling, Frank Prestia, Patrick Francis, Craig Wood, (Year 11) and Trae Takiari and Chris Kostopoulos (Year 10). Each player found an area to excel, whether they were cooking, serving, giving change or cleaning. Thanks to the parents who greatly assisted; Mr Lawrence Takiari, Mrs Carol Lobo and Mr Gerald Lobo. John Therry staff who worked the stall included Mrs Young, Mr Cook, Mr Brady and Mr Peters, with other staff buying sausages on the day to support the team. A fantastic team effort!

Mr Stephen Peters
Coach

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Creative Arts Department

ARTEXPRESS THIRD YEAR AT AGNSW!

Wednesday February 11th was the opening night of ARTEXPRESS at the Art Gallery of NSW. In attendance were dignitaries, politicians, prominent artists, invited exhibiting students and their families, Principals and Visual Arts teachers. 2014 student Elida Guntan and her proud family were invited guests. Elida had previously seen the exhibition herself over the last two years and had visualised her own work in the exhibition. Her work titled *Cautionary Tales* was judged so highly that her Visual Arts Process Diary, documenting her classroom activities and thought process was scanned by the NSW Board of Studies (BOSTES) and placed on the web as an exemplary practice. The link is: http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/insideartexpress/2015/elida_guntan/?model=diary

Additionally Elida was on the front page of the Macarthur Advertiser for Artexpress on January 7 this year, with an article inside the paper.

ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition of artworks that represents the highest standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in New South Wales schools. All works demonstrate outstanding exceptional quality across a broad range of subject matter, approaches, styles and media including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, documented forms, textiles and fibre, ceramics, digital animation, film and video, and collections of works. From the 2014 HSC, approximately 10,000 students submitted bodies of work for examination. From these, only thirty–eight (38) were selected for exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. This is the number one venue in the state with the very best works.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
This event is now the third year in succession at this venue for our school. Previous exhibiting students were Kelly Hart 93% (2012) and Stefanie Gorman 98% (2013). The chance of making it in to this exhibition would be 1 in 263. To make it three years in a row, would be astronomical.

It is a credit to the wonderful creativity and determination of our students who have consistently averaged approximately 89% over these years!

From our Visual Arts class congratulations to Elida Guntan (96%) and Tom McGill (97%) whose Year 12 Visual Arts Body of works in Drawing and Photomedia respectively were nominated for the prestigious ARTEXPRESS exhibition, meaning they both scored outstanding marks. These were the highest marks from all subjects in the 2014 HSC from our school. In the last round of selection, the curators of ARTEXPRESS choose Elida’s work was selected for exhibition.

Elida Guntan’s work titled Cautionary Tales will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW from 12 February – 19 April and the Margaret Whitlam Galleries, University of Western Sydney from 8 August – 27 September 2015

Mr. Stephen Peters
Creative Arts Coordinator
Senior Visual Arts teacher

**VISUAL ARTS HSC INTENSIVE WORKSHOP**

**Miss Martinez** has organised for three Year 12 Visual Arts students, Elizabeth Gale, Brooke Stein and Maria Ibrahim to be sponsored by our school to attend a Visual Arts HSC Intensive workshop on Sunday March 22nd. It is on ‘Working in Mixed Media’ at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery at Gymea in conjunction with ARTEXPRESS. It will develop skills and explore new expressive forms, to extend their art practice and develop their Body of Work. They will look at various ways to approach subject matter and gain insight, knowledge and skills, working with the different properties and characteristics of a variety of media. Students will encounter ways to problem solve an image (by distilling).

The tutor, Louisa Chircop, is a Sydney based artist as well as lecturer in Fine Arts. She has lectured at various Universities including COFA, UWS, ACU and TAFE for over fourteen years in painting and drawing. She is currently lecturing at ACU in painting and drawing. Winner of many awards for her artmaking, this experience will be very beneficial for our Visual Arts students.

Mr. Stephen Peters,
Creative Arts Coordinator

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
‘ONSTAGE’ SENIOR DRAMA EXCURSION

On Tuesday February 10th, from 6.00-10.00pm our Senior Drama students viewed HSC Drama exemplary projects and performances at ‘ONSTAGE’ at the York Theatre in the Seymour Centre. The season of exemplary Drama performances from the 2014 Higher School Certificate will run from Monday 9th to Friday 13th February 2015 at 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm in the York Theatre, Seymour Centre.

This year there will be two programs. Each program will feature four individual performances and five group devised works.

‘ONSTAGE’ is a presentation and exhibition of group and individual performances and projects by Higher School Certificate Drama students. These exemplary Drama performances comprised both group performances (GP) and individual performances from the best across the state. This year both projects and performances were the best we have seen in years. Sitting in the front row at this esteemed event was a memorable experience, one the students and staff will long remember. Students viewed the exhibition of exemplary individual projects in the foyer of the Seymour Centre, which included costume and set design, director’s folio, promotion and program, and theatre review.

Our students exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm both on the bus and at the venue was amazing. They could not wait for the next day to have Drama in period 1 and 2. Thank you to Mrs. Cascarino for organising this brilliant experience for our Drama students. Their positive response and support of parents is, and will always be, very much appreciated in the Creative Arts faculty.

Mr. Stephen Peters,

Creative Arts Coordinator

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
ANZAC Art Awards ... Gallipoli 2015 winner

Congratulations to Year 9 student Eric D’Mellow who won a Silver award for his artwork in the Year 7 and 8 section of the 2014 RSL ANZAC Art Awards in December last year.

“A competition that has delivered the cream to the top; these outstanding artworks will again make an excellent ANZAC exhibition for the 2015 Gallipoli commemoration period” said RSL NSW acting President, John Haines, when he viewed the winning entries after the recent judging.

“We have tested the young and the more senior students to present their artistic impression of ‘Gallipolli’ in this commemorative period before us over the next 12 months. The detail conveyed to the viewer is very clear with several studies delivering a memorial image and message.

“I am thrilled to see young artists representing schools from Sydney to Scone, Bondi to Booragul taking part in this prestigious competition. The standard of works this year was again incredibly high, showing a depth of maturity and understanding of what it means to serve your country” said Patrick Medway the Arts project co-ordinator.

The 30 winning artworks, including Eric’s artwork from the last years competition can be viewed as part of the RSL ANZAC Art Exhibition ‘The Face of Gallipoli’ now on show at the Gallipoli Centre, Narrabeen War Veterans’ Village and will also open for display to the public in March 2015 at the NSW Parliament House.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
The leading 30 artworks for this years competition will also go on exhibition in during the March-April commemorative ANZAC period of 2015. Thank you to Visual Arts teacher Miss Neilsen for organising our school’s entries into the competition. Without her enthusiasm and initiative this would not be possible.

Mr. Stephen Peters
Creative Arts Coordinator

**News From The Music Department**

As part of our ongoing support of Creative Arts, this year we will continue to offer music tuition within the school. It will feature experienced music tutors from the Liverpool Academy of Music. Today, the Liverpool Academy of Music in Sydney’s South West, has grown to become one of the largest music schools in Australia. Since the Academy does teach from a graded syllabus, there is music written for every level - students are making and playing music almost from the very first lesson. And as they apply themselves, students simply move to play more difficult music.

At the moment we are offering tuition for guitar, piano and voice. Tuition will take place at school. Students will be taken out of class for their lesson/s each week. Lessons are typically half an hour and will fall on a Tuesday. Tuition fees will be paid directly to the tutor ($30.00 per lesson). Students are taught in a one-on-one style, using innovative methods, as we believe and see proof that this achieves the best results. More information about the Academy can be seen on their web site at [http://www.liverpoolacademyofmusic.com.au/](http://www.liverpoolacademyofmusic.com.au/)

Please see one of the friendly music teachers or contact them via email to receive an enrolment form.

[jennifer.koryzma@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.koryzma@dow.catholic.edu.au)
[katrina.blunden@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:katrina.blunden@dow.catholic.edu.au)

Thanks
The Music Department

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
JTCHS Young Writers

Letters
By
Addison Gleeson

It's like a python slithering around my chest, about to crush my heart. James, my only son, tells me he wants to join up with his friends in the army and fight in Europe. I will never let them take James away, even if he wants to. He refuses to speak to me, doesn't even want to look at me anymore. I lay down a letter in front of my teenage son on the dining table. He looks at me tentatively but slowly opens the envelope...

Australian 3rd Division
Amiens, France
21 March 1918

Dear Mary,

It's been three years since I last brushed your hair across your ear. How I long to return to Campbelltown to see you standing at the door of our abode, far from the nightmares of the war. This always reminds me of why we are at war. I can never think of an answer. Australia naively declares war without thinking about us; conscripts pulled away from families and loved ones, off to fight a war on the other side of the world. It boggles the mind! I vividly remember what the self-proclaimed General Monash said to me with "renewed confidence" that the Germans will capitulate at any time now. "I know you miss your family Captain. We all miss our families and loved ones. But we can't afford to let our guard down this close to the end. Not now." He doesn't know a single think about us. He doesn't know what I've been through just to live another day to see that ray of sunshine pierce through the fog of artillery and machine gun fire; that time when I can finally hear birds chirping in the distance rather than barraging bombs bellowing the countryside, when peace is finally restored.

This was during another one of the general's so called "rallying up the troops". Thinking of you and the baby almost makes me forget that we are still at war. Still at war after what seems to be a never ending cycle of bloodshed. I'm stationed in the front line trenches near Amiens. The men under my command are also desperate to return home. The way they limp through the trenches from starvation with grime covering every inch of their uniform and skin just makes me want to scream to Monash how pathetic he and his entire war is. I'm not fairing any better. If you saw me the way I am now, you might jump out a window. You wouldn't be able to see my brown eyes and blond hair, or even the tan you adored before I left.

The whole country has begun to reek again of German and Allied corpses as no-man's land thawed from the winter. Now I wait. Wait! The impotent waiting is an axe poised for a killing blow. The Germans have been suspiciously silent recently. There have been few hotspots between the trenches and the Hindenburg line. I feel as though the impending big push to Germany is like the gates of hell opening up to devour us all. The entire war on the Western Front is a set of waves hitting the shore. I don't know how long I can keep this up for. Firing my rifle, climbing over trenches, running ravenously at ricocheting bullets... What seems to be an impending peace is as much of a dream as finding a can of edible beans in my ration pack. I grow ever tired as each day unfolds. But I must remain resilient for you.

Your loving fiancé,
Roger

"Recta Sapere" To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Letters
By
Addison Gleeson

I never really talked about his father to him before. It always reminded me of the tragedy and pain war brings. Now it was at my doorstep, waiting, poised to snatch James away. I told him about Roger before the war, how he was my lover and I his angel. James took it better than I hoped. He just stared eerily into my eyes. He wanted to know more, so I passed him another letter.

Australian 3rd Division
Somewhere near Mont. St. Quentin, France
8 August 1918

Dear Mary,

It finally came. Five days ago, an artillery avalanche pummelled the trenches near Amiens. A swarm of those dogs overran our position at Amiens and we were forced to retreat. The men in my company were so exhausted from the fighting. They were like tortoises pulling themselves up over the trenches while the Germans were locomotives. I myself couldn't believe how fearsome the enemy fought. All our progress pushing back the tide; all the men that died; all for naught…

I was barely able to escape. I tried to gather my company; stand together against the Germans, but... Nobody emerged…

The wretched war! I recall one of my men, Sergeant Pietersen, talk about how after the war, he was going to publish a children's book with his brother the night before the attack. Now it is just going to be a legacy. I want to see every German at the edge of my bayonet, but a part of me wants to drop my weapon. The enemy also planned to publish a children's book after the war, I'm sure but what will their tales be about? Not about the happy things that children do-play in the sand, dapple in water, ride the train… No, their tales can only be of blood and gore, killing and murder—because that is all they know!

We've pushed the enemy from Amiens and are now marching to Berlin to end the war once and for all. The Germans have exhausted all they've got. The German locomotive has ground to a stop and this is indeed the final push through the darkness and into the light. The sweltering summer heat morphed the Rhine into a swamp. Clouds of flies attack us everywhere we go ironically bringing back memories of the summer back home. Try not to think too much of me. I promise I'll be back at Campbeltown to see you and our bundle of joy. I cannot tell you how long the offensive will be or when I will write back to you. Just know that this, like all nightmares, must come to an end.

Your loving fiancé,
Roger
Letters
By
Addison Gleeson

I'll always remember the face my son made as he lowered this letter from his face. He tried to hide his emotions behind a mask just to appease himself, but tears descended, opening his eyes to reality. I walked over to him from across the table, holding his head between my arms. I pass James the final letter from Roger. He reads it with his heart this time.

Australian 3rd Division
St. Quentin Canal, France
1 October 1918

Dear Mary,

I can imagine the leaves of the Rhine dropping down onto the rolling hills like a golden waterfall with the occasional royal purple leaf majestically swooping across the land. It would be a sight to behold, but the artillery barrage and gas bombs have killed virtually all vegetation in the area. It will be a long time before the magic of autumn can bless this land again. Driving through the Hindenburg line will at least be a start. For years we thought of the line as impassable. Even trembling before its dreaded shadow was but a mad dream just a few short months ago.

Now that we have regained the offensive, the Germans retreat and quiver behind their last line of defence against the might of Britain, France, America and us, ANZACs. The thought of breaking through the Hindenburg line is more than just completing a military objective. This mass of concrete and steel was like an anvil thrown into my gut and a bullet to the head of so many men I once knew. The day we break the line will be our finest hour. Fighting beside conscripted men made me feel like I would accomplish something for the ages, even though I have abhorred every moment. Men that were just mere boys before the war would not have died in vain.

Monash leads the storm at St. Quentin canal, crushing the enemy after his defiance to succumb to German military might. Artillery and field guns rain down liberty over Europe… Knowing this is it, after four years of surviving, makes me wish I was with you right now back in Campbelltown raising our child, going to the Campbelltown Theatre with you and attending those balls where you always introduced me to another one of your "girlfriends". We are to charge the canal anytime now, the final time I go over the top. Whatever happens, I will always love and be there for you and our child.

With sincerest love,
Roger.

War never solved a damn thing and in just twenty years, the world was in yet another fiery abyss. I take James' arm and walk him to the garden in the backyard. James always wondered why I planted poppy flowers in the backyard... Now he just stares at them. We hold each other. James finally understands
Too busy this morning to eat breakfast?  
Rushed out the door and forgot?  
Come and join us for cereal, toast, fruit or yoghurt

When: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
Before school: 8.00 – 8.30am  
Where: The kitchen area in the lower hall  
Cost: A gold coin donation would be appreciated

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Community News

Liturgy Training: Acolytes, Servers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Where: Campbelltown

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Contact: Darren McDowell
Phone: 4222 2463
Email: cfl@dow.org.au

"Recta Sapere" To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just