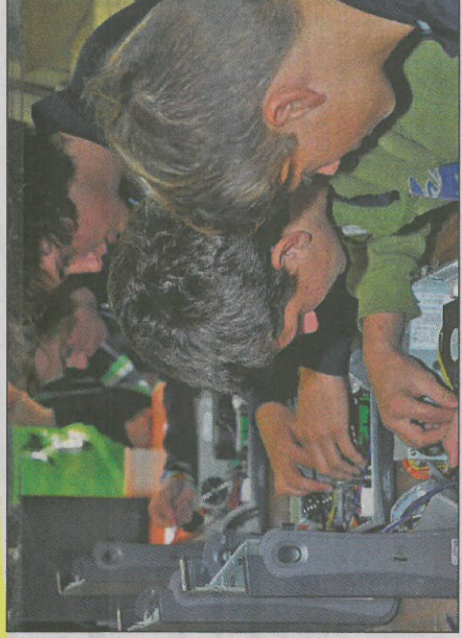




Joseph Stevens, Allana Adams and Daniel Walkeden are taught some of the foundations of robotics by LaTrobe Universities Eddie Custovic.



Learning the ins and outs of computers proved to be a popular subject.



Advance Computings Lauren Costello showed Hayden Alessi and Gianni Serra the computing power behind one of their most commonly used tools.

Students exposed to ICT

By Patrick Phillips

It's definitely not nerdy, it's just the way of the future.

Kyabram P-12 College students got a firm grounding in the field of information communication technology last Wednesday during a special ICT Forum at the Dawes Rd Campus.

Run by the Campaspe and Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network, students were exposed to a wide array of technology-based industries, from robotics and game design to cartoon publishing and iPad applications.

Guest speakers from LaTrobe University, Goulburn Owens Institute of TAFE, Advance Computing in Kyabram and "Splattoon Cartoons" took students through some of the vital, but little-known ways technology is shaping the world.

CCLLEN organiser Bev Werner said the forum offered students an insight into ICT opportunities and helped dispel myths surrounding the industry.

"We initially thought country students in particular were not exposed to the variety of careers there were, which included information communication technology," Ms Werner said.

"We want to dispel the myth it's for nerds or boys only and that there is something for everyone, whether you are the creative type



Gabriella Fabregas and Pamela Gonzalez get hands on with some computing work.

or a scientific type, any study you do in ICT will be good for anything you want to do in life."

Originally a state government-funded program, Ms Werner said this was the first year the forum was fully funded by the CCLLEN, which wanted to continue promoting ICT careers.

"I think initially why the state government was putting money in was that there were declining enrollments in technology courses in the universities, whereas the job opportunities are huge," she said.

"We have got some really good professional and university people who have come in, giving up their



Advance Computings Lauren Costello showed Saf Meka and Chloe Turner the ropes.

time for the day, so we can continue to promote kids thinking about careers in ICT."

Ms Werner said she had received plenty of positive feedback from the students who enjoyed the hands-on approach to a lot of the programs.



Rebecca Squires gets up close and personal with some high-tech robotics.

"The students are really thrilled," she said.

"Not all are interested in every workshop, but there has been something in it for everyone and it has really blown their minds sometimes with regard to where technology is taking us."



Tongala Primary School students celebrated their 100 days of school by creating their 100 day crowns and ties and baking a "100" cake and enjoyed eating 100s and 1000s bread.

100 days celebrated

Tongala Primary School students from Prep to Year 3 celebrated their 100 days of school last Wednesday.

The children learnt a variety of math and literacy skills relating to 100.

They created their 100-day crowns and ties, baked a "100" cake and

enjoyed eating 100s and 1000s bread.

Harvey Wright was a winner for guessing the correct jar with 100 smarties in it.

Harvey Wright (right) was the winner for guessing the correct jar with 100 smarties in it!



Chantelle Webb, Julie Purdy and students from St Augustine's inspect the food and clothing raised during the annual Winter Appeal.

Socking it to 'em

St Augustine's College has collected 515 cans and 69 pairs of socks as part of the St Vincent De Paul annual Winter Appeal.

The appeal, which was this year called "Sock it to the can", aimed to collect as many tins of canned food and pairs of socks as possible.

An initiative of the St Augustine's Social Justice Group, students from primary and secondary classes

were able to collect almost 515 cans and 69 pairs of socks between them, holding a competition to collect the most.

The cans and socks were donated to local St Vincent de Paul representative Julie Purdy along with a cheque for \$446.40 from the school's Pajama Day.

All cans, socks and money donated will go to less-fortunate members of the community.