What is Macedon Ranges Satellite VCAL?

We are an alternate learning setting in the Macedon Ranges region and offer re-engagement programs for individuals who have experienced challenges in mainstream schooling. The criteria to enter our programs are based on a young person’s attendance at school and whether it has diminished or is very low.

We structure our programs using an integrated approach and learning is centred on project tasks which require our program members to develop an understanding of a concept and then apply their new found knowledge practically. Project work can include things like gardening, room ‘make-over’s and restoration tasks.

We provide a caring and safe learning environment where program members have many opportunities to reach their potential. The program is delivered by highly skilled staff that have expertise in dealing with sensitive issues and utilise a range of teaching strategies to engage young people who find mainstream schooling difficult. Additional Support staff work within the program to assist individuals and small groups with their learning and skill development.

The program is also supported by a range of external specialists such as Cobaw Health staff, Clinical Psychologist and our local Youth Resource Officer.

What programs do we offer?

We currently offer two full time programs. These include:

- **VCAL** – ‘Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning’ (16-21 years)
- **MYCAL** – ‘Middle Years Certificate of Applied Learning’ (12-15 years)

What is VCAL?

The ‘**Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning**’ (VCAL) is the Senior School Certificate that is based on applied learning. It is the equivalent to the VCE and it allows individuals to achieve a Year 11 or 12 Certificate. ‘Applied learning’ means that it is a hands-on course and aims to develop skills that will help prepare young people for employment, further education and training. There is an emphasis on preparing young people to be ‘work ready’ by requiring program members to participate in a work placement program one day per week.

The VCAL has two levels: **Intermediate** and **Senior**. Individuals are enrolled in the level that matches their needs and abilities.

What is MYCAL?

‘**MYCAL - Middle Years Certificate of Applied Learning**’ is Macedon Ranges Satellite VCAL’s junior program. This program caters for young people in Years 7 to who are having difficulty engaging in mainstream education. Project-based activities are designed to improve basic skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Personal Development. Career planning and work related skills are also key features of the program. The MYCAL program is a full time course and is suitable for young people who may return to mainstream schooling or on completion of the MYCAL program enrol into the Intermediate VCAL program.

Interested in finding out more?

If you are interested in finding out more about our programs we are happy to make time to meet with families to discuss suitability and individual needs. Please contact our Campus Manager, **Barry Van Weeghel** to arrange an appointment on **54 223 819** or **0410 444 608**.