Benalla P-12 College student awarded State VCAL Award

Liberty Rogash was nominated for the VCAL Student Award for Intermediate Personal Development Skills for her achievement’s in her Year 12 class in 2012. On the 2nd of May she attended the winner’s ceremony at Federation Square to receive her award. The Minister for Education, Martin Dixon who welcomed everyone to the celebration spoke of the importance of VCAL in our secondary schools to foster links between schools and the community and to offer a more hands on approach to learning. We know that this program engages and keeps more of our students at school and we are more likely to prepare them for a successful transition to Further education or employment after school.

Liberty took many opportunities in her VCAL studies during 2012 taking on a lead role in the organisation and presentation of the Get Out There Youth Awards held in Youth week. She became the Secretary of the Skate and Jam event for the class and managed the front desk at the event. The skills and confidence that Liberty had gained during these experiences led her to organise “Morning Munchies” at the senior campus. Liberty always used her positive force in the classroom to get others on board by recognising their contributions and including them in decision making. All VCAL students at the College must take on a VET (Vocational Educational Training) subject and Liberty excelled in her Hairdressing Studies taking her skills out to the elderly community for a “Pamper Day” that the class organised. These experiences have no doubt created a passion in Liberty to follow in her future career, “I love working with people and making them feel like they have been spoilt a little bit”.

Liberty’s Personal Development Teacher was surprised when the shy Liberty volunteered to be the MC at the Youth Awards but soon realised that she was serious about this challenge when she started writing her own speech for the evening and enquiring about the best way to improve her public speaking skills. It is very satisfying to see students develop self-confidence and then take the challenge further to start taking a leading role amongst their peers. She has shown many personal qualities that will give her a great start in her working life and set her up for success in her beautician studies that she will start in July.

The Award ceremony saw students from all over the state from both government and independent schools receiving awards as well as teachers who have supported these students in their VCAL studies. It was quite inspiring to hear about the variety of community projects that these students had been involved in and how they had gone about finding ways to make them work.