

Texting and driving not a LOL matter

EDITORIAL

By **SHEA EVANS, SYLVIE LORD**
and **MILLIE BAYLIS**

ACCORDING to ABC's *Nightline*, in 2011, 3331 people were killed in road accidents caused by a distracted driver; 12 per cent of these fatalities were caused directly by the use of technology while driving.

With newly introduced legislation that aims at lowering these figures, why do people still find it appealing to take this risk?

The dangers are clear: using a mobile phone while driving not only slows reaction times and interferes with a driver's perception skills, but according to a study by the *New York Times* it also increases the chance of having a crash by four-fold.

Have you ever noticed the number of drivers around you distracted by their phones? These people are breaking the law and run the risk of not only losing their license but also their lives.

It's possible to lose three demerit points if you are caught misusing a mobile phone while driving, or four if it happens to be in a school zone.

Is making a phone call or replying to a text message worth

the potential loss of life?

The main group of people prone to this behaviour are relatively inexperienced drivers between 19 and 24, which is also the group at which technology developments such as Bluetooth and call-detering apps are aimed at.

In December last year, it was the loss of a young person's life that forced the Victorian community and the state government to re-evaluate the issue.

Brooke Richardson, 20, died in a car accident only moments after sending a text message.

Police are now regularly checking mobile phones at collision sites to see whether they were a contributing factor.

South Australia's Road Safety Strategy provides a multitude of safe methods to prevent mobile phone-related accidents and manage the incoming calls. Instead of answering a phone call, pull over to a safe area or, even better, leave it for voicemail.

Simple strategies that are carried out can create a much safer environment for road users and reduce the risk of severe accidents occurring from the distractions of everyday technology.

Although new technology creates fun, excitement and adds ease to our lives we must manage our responsibilities diligently in order to uphold a safe environment.



FRIENDS: Alice Sunzu and Janice Horder. Picture: Pheobe Kiriakidis

Helping our new arrivals

By **ARLEEN WILCOX**

JANICE Horder is a Smith Family volunteer who has been working with Callaghan College student Alice Sunzu.

Alice has been living in Australia for two years. During this time Janice has helped her to understand English and Australian culture.

"I help her in any way that I can," Janice said.

Janice is a former ESL teacher and has assisted students in the past. She expressed how difficult it can be for people new to Australia to learn the language and get used to life here; even shopping can be challenging without the relevant knowledge.

"Janice has showed me Australian

food I've never tasted and sometimes shows me how to cook it," Alice said.

Over the past two years, Alice and Janice have built a strong relationship based on trust and care.

Alice said: "I feel free to tell her anything and ask her for help. She is like my mum." This feeling of admiration is mutual. "I call them my Burundi family," Janice said.

Australia is a very multicultural country, however, new arrivals can miss out if they don't have the right support. Janice and Alice are an example of how rewarding a multicultural friendship can be. Volunteering time and being prepared to help others is what builds a strong and safe community.

Working at school age pays off

By **GIAU VO**

MOST students have large workloads in high school but today more students are balancing their studies with employment.

A recent survey has been completed at Jesmond Campus involving year 11 students. It consisted of questions relating to workplaces, hours of work, effect on school work and how their earnings were spent.

Results found that almost a third of students in year 11 at Callaghan College held part-time or casual jobs. Most of the students were employed in the hospitality or retail industries and work between six and 20 hours a week.

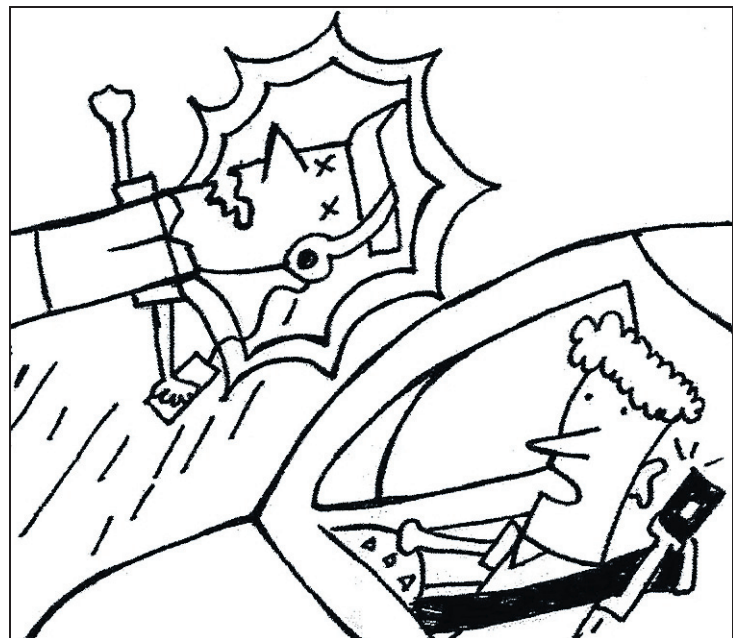
Benefits of employment included acquiring work experience and developing transferable skills for when they leave school.

When asked what students spent their wages on, the list was long. Phones, computers and tablets rated very highly. Money for holidays and car expenses was also common, alongside recreational activities such as going to the movies.

The survey revealed students often struggled to balance their studies with work commitments due to working too many hours.

Students wrote that tiredness was also a disadvantage of working while studying.

Overall, the survey found that the benefits far outweighed the disadvantages.



Cartoon: John Kim

The right formula to top technology tasks

By **IDRISSA MANIRAMBONA**

FOR the first time, Callaghan year-11 industrial arts students are participating in the F1 in Schools Technology Challenge.

This competition is the world's largest secondary school technology program and involves over 9 million students from 17,000 schools in 31 nations.

The project is a multi-disciplinary challenge where students utilise CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse,

manufacture, test and then race miniature compressed air-powered balsa wood F1 cars.

The project at Jesmond Campus is facilitated by teacher Sean Druitt.

"I hope the students all gain an understanding of advanced manufacturing techniques used by industries today.

"Students will be developing skills in teamwork, 3D modelling and CAM software; I would like to see students take opportunities when they come their way," he said.



FOCUSED: Idrissa Manirambona and Jacob Maddison with a CAD example. Picture: Ryan Buckhorn

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