Nazareth College Community Partnership with SCOPE Victoria

Nazareth College is proud of its wonderful relationship with SCOPE Victoria in supporting people with disabilities and promoting disability awareness within the college and wider community.

Year 11 VCAL students complete SCOPE Victoria’s Young Ambassadors Program, (SYA), where they are educated about disabilities. This prompts our VCAL students to ‘see the person, not the disability’, to quote a SCOPE motto. In particular, the students learn about the different methods of communication that can be used to interact with someone who has a disability. Highlights of the SYA include guest speakers who talk of their own life experience living with a disability, and the opportunity to work alongside people with disabilities at South East Industries.

Year 12 VCAL students support the players and committee of the Southern Balloon Football League (BFL) on a weekly basis to run this wheelchair sporting competition. Managing teams, umpiring and scoring games are the practical sides to this involvement. All key stakeholders in this community partnership speak highly of the meaningful relationships that VCAL students develop with the players, Disability Support Workers and SCOPE volunteers. Contributing to the decision making process of this league teaches our young people skills and promotes their own self worth. Innovative fundraising efforts in Year 12 VCAL aim to help provide resources for the Balloon Football League. Students also provide valuable support to the SCOPE Community Inclusion team at Statewide Competitions.

Nazareth College welcomes the Balloon Football Players to our school each year to take part in a BFL All Stars Vs VCAL Exhibition Match, to showcase disability sport and the friendships that have developed between students and players. The Balloon Football Grand Final Day developed by the students is mirrored on that put on by the A.F.L.! However, it is now the Southern B.F.L.’s John Bowen Awards Night, hosted by Nazareth College that is seen as the most outstanding event on the calendar, with the families and friends of people living with disabilities joining all in a night of fine dining and dance.
Nazareth College has a commitment to sustaining this outstanding community partnership in the years ahead.