



A Blue Light Victoria program

THE Blue EDGE Bulletin

March 2022

We're Back!

After the programs were cancelled at the end of 2021 due to Covid, Blue EDGE is back in action! We are extremely grateful to our stakeholders for the support they provided throughout last year and we're looking forward to a smoother 2022.

This term we welcome five new sites into the Blue EDGE family: **Beaufort Secondary College**, **Weeroona College Bendigo**, **Lyndhurst Secondary College** in Cranbourne, **Richmond High School** and **Bass Coast College**. Alongside our continuing sites **Hume Central Secondary College** in Broadmeadows, **Northern Bay College** in Corio and **Irymple Secondary College** these programs have a wonderful team working hard to provide the participants with an enriching and rewarding experience.

This year we have added a new member to the Site Delivery Team - a trained Facilitator. Each session they deliver content through games and activities that trigger discussions on topics such as teamwork, communication and healthy decision making. Police participate alongside the students providing more opportunities for positive role modelling and fostering connections to the local community. Our facilitators bring skills in group development and youth engagement which have strengthened the connection between the participants in the program and police and enabled a deeper exploration of the topics.

The team at Blue Light Victoria is thrilled with how much joy and knowledge Blue EDGE has already given the participants, police members and teachers and we can't wait to see what else the year brings!



Cranbourne Blue EDGE

Police and Safety Week

A true highlight from the first four weeks of the program has to be Police and Safety Week!

The week started off with a discussion on safety, where the participants were tasked to explore where they feel safe and who are considered safe people within their community and why. They also discussed safe choices and where they could seek help for different issues.

The second session focused on the Police, including the different roles and units within Victoria Police. Bendigo and Cranbourne had visitors from the Highway Patrol, who ensure our roads are safe from speeding, reckless and impaired drivers etc. The Highway Patrol car in Bendigo was a big hit having been featured in the television show aptly named Highway Patrol!



Bendigo Blue EDGE



Cranbourne Blue EDGE

LSC Meg Clements with troop horse Trevor and SC Fleur Hayne with troop horse Will from the Victoria Police Mounted Branch dropped by Richmond High School on Thursday morning. The students were so excited to see these amazing animals (and their riders!) and hear all about the incredible work they do.

The Mounted Branch provides a state-wide resource in support of operational police at incidents of public order management, planned and targeted patrols, land searches, ceremonial duties at events such as funerals, Police Remembrance Day and community engagement events across Victorian communities.

The Police session was a real highlight for the Victoria Police members. LSC Dave Smith from Cranbourne told us:



The Blue Edge participants certainly saw a different side of the members when we turned up in full uniform. We had a great discussion around how police members keep themselves and the community safe. The level of engagement was fantastic and the students asked some interesting questions! It all went really well and we can't wait to come back!



Richmond Blue EDGE

Spotlight!

Hayley Douglas - RMIT Student

What's your involvement with Blue EDGE?

I am currently in my third year of a social work degree, undertaking my first placement at Blue Light Victoria. Within this program, I have involvement in assisting Blue EDGE Facilitators at a range of sites, as well as work within the head office and the 1:1 Blue EDGE mentoring in Bendigo.

What's the best part about being involved in Blue EDGE?

My favourite part of Blue EDGE is connecting with students around metro and regional Victoria who I would not have met otherwise. The students engage so well with the program, promoting shifting perceptions on topics not only within their own thinking but also provoking thought in myself.

If you could time travel, what year would you travel to and why?

2550 B.C - ancient Egypt!! I NEED to see how the pyramids were constructed.

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Hard choice!! Either a Nandos supremo pita wrap with pineapple; chips, pita and hummus or a Crust margherita pizza.

If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have and why?

Teleportation! I would save a lifetime of time cutting down travelling, and it would also just be amazing to randomly appear in places!

What's your go-to karaoke song?

Umbrella by Rihanna and Jay-Z



Touch Telephone

The Touch Telephone activity is a fantastic way for students (not to mention teachers and police!), to understand effective communication and appreciate the importance of clear communication within a group.

In a mix of Chinese Whispers and Pictionary participants were split into groups where one was shown an image. That person drew the image on their teammate's back, who did the same going down a line. The last person had to draw the image on a piece of paper and compare it to the original.

Each group then came together to discuss what the game taught them about communication - did different sized groups affect the outcome? Were there breakdowns in communication? How might they be able to use the lessons learnt in their everyday life.



Corio Blue EDGE



Richmond Blue EDGE



Bendigo Blue EDGE



Corio Blue EDGE



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Blue EDGE is a Blue Light Victoria program run in partnership with Victoria Police.

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