

## STUDENTS SLEEP OUT FOR A CAUSE

More than twenty Damascus College Year 11 students and staff braved the Ballarat weather and slept out to raise money for homelessness on Thursday, November 10.

Damascus College is committed to social justice and as part of this commitment, is now in its fourth year of running the Seeds of Justice Street-Wise Sleep Out, where it raises money for the Ballarat Soup Bus.

This year we are really pleased to welcome another charity as a partner of Damascus College and we will also raise money for the new and exciting One Humanity Shower Bus.

Assistant Principal, Catholic School Culture Mr Tony Haintz said that the sleep out raised funds and awareness in support of those who are caught in the complex set of circumstances that leads to homelessness.

“Representatives from the One Humanity Shower Bus and the Ballarat Soup Bus addressed the students before they embarked on their sleep out and the students also watched a DVD on the streets of New York,” he said.



“This year we also welcomed the new Shower Bus on campus, where students were able to see inside it and develop a deeper understanding of what is involved in this unique initiative.”

“All students participating seek sponsors to raise money for the local homeless support agencies. By their engagement in community development events, students develop within themselves the virtues of compassion, unity, justice and understanding.”

At various stages throughout the night, students were asked to move on and find other places to sleep, just as if they were homeless in the city.

As a Catholic school, Damascus College encourages an attitude of action for social justice and community service. This is put into practice in several ongoing activities at local, national and international levels as part of the College's Christian Personal Development Award.

*Sarah Boswell – Leader of School Development*

