

DAMASCUS STUDENTS SLEEP OUT FOR A CAUSE

More than fifteen Damascus College Ballarat Year 11 students and staff braved the weather and slept out to raise money for homelessness on Friday, September 13.

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

Acting Deputy Principal, Mr Tony Haintz said that the sleep out raises funds and awareness in support of those who are caught in the complex set of circumstances that leads to homelessness.

“Representatives from the Ballarat Soup Bus and Uniting Church Outreach 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.

“All students who participated sought 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.

We hope that the experience was a faith filled time and provided lasting positive memories about social justice as well as making a difference to the homeless people in our rural city. The sponsorship of the event by friends and families raised in excess of \$750 for the partner organisations.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development

