Students exposed to ICT

By Patrick Phillips

It's definitely not nerdy, it's just the way of the future.

Kyabram F-12 College students got a firm grounding in the field of information communication technology last Wednesday during a special ICT forum at the Dawes Hill Campus.

Run by the Campaspe and Colac Local Learning and Employ-ment Network, students were exposed to a wide array of technology-based industries, from robotics and game design to cartoon publishing and iPad applications.

Guest speakers from LaTrobe University, Goulburn Ovens In-stitute of TAFE, Advance Computing in Kyabram and Splootoon Cartoons took students through some of the vital, but little-known ways technology is shaping the world.

CCLLEN organiser Bev Werner said the forum offered students an insight into ICT opportunities and helped dispel myths surrounding the industry.

“We initially thought country students in particular were not exposed to the variety of careers that ICT provides, which included information communication technology, robotics and design.

“We want to dispel the myth it’s just for nerds or boys only and that there is something for everyone, whether you are the creative type or a scientific type, any study you do in ICT will be good for anything you want to do in life.”

Originally a state government-funded program, Ms Werner said this was the first year the forum was fully funded by the CCLLEN, which wanted to continue promoting ICT careers.

Gabriella Fabregas and Pamela Gonzalez get hands on with some computing work.

“I think initially why the state government was putting money in was that there were declining enrollments in technology courses in the universities, whereas the job opportunities are huge,” she said.

“We have got some really good professional and university people who have come in, giving up their time for the day, so we can continue to promote kids thinking about careers in ICT.”

Ms Werner said she had received plenty of positive feedback from the students who enjoyed the hands-on approach to a lot of the programs.

Rebecca Squire gets up close and personal with some high-tech robotics.

Advance Computing’s Lauren Costello showed Sal Meka and Chloe Turner the ropes.

“Not all are interested in every workshop, but there has been something in it for everyone and it has really blown their minds sometimes with regard to what technology is doing.”

Chantelle Webb, Julie Purdy and students from St Augustine’s inspect the food and clothing raised during the annual Winter Appeal.

Sock it to ’em

St Augustine’s College has collected 515 cans and 69 pairs of socks as part of the St Vincent de Paul annual Winter Appeal.

The appeal, which was this year called “Sock it to the can”, aimed to collect as many tins of canned food and pairs of socks as possible.

An initiative of the St Augustine’s Social Justice Group, students from primary and secondary classes were able to collect almost 515 cans and 69 pairs of socks between them, holding a competition to collect the most.

The cans and socks were donated to local St Vincent de Paul representative Julie Purdy along with a cheque for $446.40 from the school’s Pejama Day.

All cans, socks, and money donated will go to less fortunate members of the community.

100 days celebrated

Tongala Primary School students from Prep to Year 3 celebrated their 100 days of school last Wednesday. The children learnt a variety of math and literacy skills relating to 100.

They created their 100-day crowns and tied, baked a “100” cake and enjoyed eating 100s and 1000s bread.

Harvey Wright was a winner for guessing the correct jar with 100 smarties in it.

Harvey Wright (right) was the winner for guessing the correct jar with 100 smarties in it!