

On March 1 and 2, a group of Marian College Ararat students headed down to Amberley for an overnight seminar focused around Justice and Democracy issues.

It was an early start, with most of us up before the sun and leaving school at 6.30 am. We arrived at the Edmund Rice Centre, along the Yarra, at about 10.00 am Thursday morning. We were greeted kindly by other schools and teachers and soon the activities began!

This seminar focused on the work that Kildare Ministries does, both locally and internationally. We were

privileged to have a number of talks throughout the course of the first day, beginning with dignity for human beings as a part of Catholic Social Teachings and ending with an insight into what Wellsprings for Women does. This was also an amazing opportunity for us to meet likeminded students from around the country, with some travelling from South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.



After an intensive day of talks, food, river walks and activities we headed off to bed. Morning came much too quickly for those of us that were tired, and we were all packed up by 8.30am. For our morning session we were again separated into groups and discussed the Justice and Democracy projects we undertake in our own schools. Our school was happy to present the excellent work we do with fundraising for the kinder in Bangladesh and the numerous other projects we run throughout the year. From this session we were

able to take ideas for new and exciting projects for our own Justice and Democracy and Vinnies events to be held during 2018.

After lunch we all headed down to the prayer room for our final prayer and gathering. It was a wonderful experience and it was sad saying goodbye to all the friends we made during the two days. I would recommend any people interested in Justice and Democracy or this seminar to give it a go next year!

*Jae Pinniger*

