



Catherine Calleja with the photographs that netted her a perfect score of 50 for studio art.

PICTURE: JUSTIN McMANUS

# VCE student scores picture perfect result

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EDUCATION REPORTER

IT ALL began in Catherine Calleja's kitchen sink. Here the year 12 student mixed an alchemy of water and food colouring to create a photographic folio that reaped her a perfect study score of 50 for studio art.

The 17-year-old's inspiration was English romantic painter William Turner, and using a digital SLR camera she explored the aesthetics of water — its atmosphere, patterns and textures and play of colour and light.

A student at Catholic Regional College Sydenham, Catherine joins thousands of high-achievers who got a VCE study score of at least 40 and whose names are published in *The Age* today.

Expecting an ENTER in the 60s, she planned to apply for a job in customer service at Melbourne Airport next year.

But after getting an ENTER of 87.10, Catherine is considering applying for photography courses. "I was so excited. My family came over and we all were so happy," Catherine said. "Standing at the kitchen sink

will never feel the same again."

For Bendigo Senior Secondary College student Hannah Dallas, 18, studying philosophy gave her access to ancient, influential texts while sitting in her classroom.

Hannah got a score of 50 in the subject, which spanned works such as Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Plato's *Gorgias* and Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*.

In particular she was drawn to Iris Murdoch, who argued that humans needed to transcend natural selfishness in order to see the universe as it

truly was and act in a just way.

"They're still so exciting, and so relevant, and it's fantastic to be able to read all this stuff when you're young," Hannah said.

With an ENTER of 97.05, she hopes to study philosophy at Melbourne University and has been offered a scholarship.

About 46,500 VCE students discovered their results on the internet, via text message or by phone on Monday morning.

Melissa Young, a student at Warragul Regional College, got 50 for her community services subject, which is a two-year

vocational VCE subject that also yields a certificate II in community services.

Melissa, who turns 18 today, achieved an ENTER of 96.45. She said VCE students often overlooked vocational training, but it offered a whole spectrum of interesting courses.

"I just love kids... I like seeing them light up and figure out new things, like a little light bulb going off in their heads," she said. "They're always so happy and positive."

### TOMORROW

Schools' VCE performance liftout

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