



press clip

Graduating to the classroom

By Kiel Egging

They've studied finance, law, international relations and media, but Stephen Flegg, Alyce Cleary and Holly Stewart are instead taking the plunge and embarking on a different career as teachers at McGuire College.

The trio, who have relocated to Shepparton from parts of NSW and Queensland respectively, spent their first day at the school yesterday as part of the Teach for Australia pro-

gram, which recruits talented graduates from non-teaching backgrounds and places them in some of the most challenging classrooms in the country.

They will spend the next two years as teachers at the school while completing a graduate diploma of education during their holidays.

Along with McGuire College, Mooroopna Secondary College and Shepparton High School are also adding

members of the program to their 2010 staff.

Ms Cleary said she was looking forward to the challenge and beginning her new career in Shepparton.

"I heard about the program through an email and I haven't looked back since then," Ms Cleary said.

"I'm pretty excited to get into the classroom and get started, and put some of the theory we've learnt into practice."

Mr Flegg is hoping to

use his commerce and finance background to assist his students with everyday decisions when he teaches accounting, maths, financial education and personal development.

"To be able to teach back to children the stuff I've been learning for years at university is a pretty golden opportunity," Mr Flegg said.

"I've been here less than a week, but I'm already looking forward to making Shepparton

home."

McGuire College acting principal John Sciacca said the program was extremely appealing to the college and it jumped at the chance to have the three new teachers working at the school.

"We're excited to have such passionate professionals on board and we look forward to having them as part of our culture at the college," Mr Sciacca said.



They've got talent: McGuire College's new teachers Stephen Flegg, Holly Stewart and Alyce Cleary.

Picture: Bethanie Sessions