### Forthcoming Events

#### February
- **Monday 11\(^{th}\)**: Japan trip information meeting
- **Tuesday 12\(^{th}\)**: House swimming sports
- **Monday 18\(^{th}\) →**: Year 11 Work Experience
- **Friday 22\(^{nd}\)**: Yr 8 Cape Bridgewater Camp
- **Tuesday 19\(^{th}\)**: Prep ‘Settling into School’ Parent Meeting
- **Tuesday 19\(^{th}\) →**: Yr 7 Ballarat Camp
- **Thursday 21\(^{st}\)**: School Council
- **Friday 29\(^{th}\)**: Interschool swimming sports

#### March
- **Monday 10\(^{th}\)**: Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 11\(^{th}\)**: Physical Resources Meeting
- **Thursday 13\(^{rd}\)**: School FETE
- **Friday 14\(^{th}\)**: Primary Summer Sports - Donald
- **Wednesday 19\(^{th}\)**: Northern Zone Swimming Sports
- **Thursday 20\(^{th}\)**: Last Day Term 1 - 2.30 finish

#### April
- **Monday 7\(^{th}\)**: Friday Day Term 2
- **Tuesday 8\(^{th}\)**: Physical Resources Meeting
- **Thursday 17\(^{th}\)**: Summer Sports - Hopetoun
- **Friday 25\(^{th}\)**: Anzac Day
- **Monday 28\(^{th}\) →**: Grade 6 Maldon Camp

#### May
- **Sunday 4\(^{th}\) →**: Years 10/11 Canberra Camp
- **Friday 9\(^{th}\)**: Year 9 Advance Camp
- **Monday 5\(^{th}\) →**: Year 9 Advance Camp
- **Friday 9\(^{th}\)**: Physical Resources Meeting
- **Tuesday 6\(^{th}\)**: Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
- **Friday 9\(^{th}\)**: Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
- **Thursday 15\(^{th}\)**: School Council

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**New staff profiles**

Birchip P-12 School welcomes staff and students back for 2008, including some new faces.

Miss Carly Langley joins staff as secondary Maths teacher. Originally from Manangatang, Carly completed her schooling in her home town before undertaking a Mathematics degree and Diploma of Education at La Trobe University Bendigo. She began her teaching career at Swan Hill College where she taught for three years. Last year Carly took twelve months leave to travel and experience teaching in various others schools including Birchip where she was strongly encouraged to return for 2008. Carly enjoys water-skiing, running, netball and has a particularly strong love of horse-riding, although she hasn’t had the opportunity to do it as much as she would have liked in recent years.

Long-time resident, Mrs Michelle Lee also joins the staff for the first time. Michelle has four children with husband Andrew, and will be working part-time as the primary Physical Education teacher. She is well known...
for her interest in fitness and teaching aerobic classes but is looking forward to focussing on teaching and her family in 2008. Mrs Megan Lord has returned from family leave to teach English and Information Technology. Megan has talents in the areas of graphics and publishing and we are sure these will be well utilised.

A new face to staff but familiar to the school, is Miss Kelsey King, who was appointed science laboratory assistant. Kelsey completed VCE at Birchip P-12 last year and is taking this year off to work at the school. Kelsey plans to commence tertiary study in 2009.

Birchip P-12 School wishes the best to both new and old staff and students for what looks like being another exciting year; with an extremely full calendar of events for term one.

More 2007 Year 12 students Placements

At the time of going to print last week we did not have all the placements of our Year 12 class from last year. Congratulations to Sam Williams who has enrolled in the Diploma of Hospitality Management at BRIT Bendigo. Sam will also work part time at the National Hotel in Bendigo. Congratulations also to Noel Southall who was accepted into the Advanced Diploma of Agriculture at Longerengong.

Physical Resources Meeting

Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 26.

School Council & Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday 21st February 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in Staff Recreation Room.

Finance Committee Meeting at 7:30 p.m. – just prior to the School Council Meeting.

Grade 3 THRASS Information Meeting

Thank you to Miss Howard for organizing and running the Grade 3 THRASS Information Meeting. She plans to explain the basics of the THRASS system to parents of Grade 3 students. The Information session will take place in the Grade 3 classroom on Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

Japanese Trip Information Night

A reminder to Year 9, 10 and 11 students and parents about the Japan Trip Information night this Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.30 in the Staff Recreation Room.

Alpine School Information Night

Following the Japan Trip Information meeting, a meeting for Year 9 students and their parents will be held at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room on Monday 11th February 2008. Grampians region has been allocated term 4 for the Dinner Plain site. If there is enough interest from Year 9 students and Birchip P-12 School’s proposal is successful then 6 students from Year 9 would have the opportunity to spend Term 4 at Dinner Plain.

HUFF N’ PUFF

An active brain is a healthy brain!
Every morning for twenty minutes, primary school students engage in some form of activity to stimulate the body. This week students are in teams engaging in a variety of activities in the stadium and have resumed their run around Australia.

School Captains, House Captains, Bus Captains & SRC Representatives

Voting for school captains will take place on Monday during home group assembly.

House Captains;

Young House:
Captains: Brianna Smith & Jak Goldsmith
Vice Captains: Ellic Trollope & Nicholas Milne

Fraser House:
Captains: Roseanne King & Steven Reid
Vice Captains: Debra Hughes & Arren Smith

Junior SRC Representatives:
Elections for office bearers of the Junior SRC were held yesterday. Most positions were very closely contested.

Congratulations to Sophie Hogan (President), Jacob Christie (Vice President), Hayley Hogan (Secretary), Chelsi Kemp (Treasurer) and Jordan Galway (EO&OHS).

Congratulations to all students who attempted to seek election. You did yourselves proud.

Senior SRC representatives:
Elections at each year level were held during the week.

Congratulations to the following students on their willingness to be nominated and their subsequent election.

Year 7: David Casey, Jessamy Bennett, Zoe Weir
Year 8: Matthew Gladman, Emily Smith, Cory Hinkley
Year 9: Mikaela Christie, Karleigh Weir, Nicholas Bales
Year 10: Darcie Cooper, Ian Fraser
Year 11: Shota Nakamura, Elsie Coffey, Jamie Lovett
Year 12: Brianna Smith, Steven Reid, James Barker

Induction of students holding positions of responsibility:
Our Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 13th February 2008 at our School Assembly at 9:00 a.m. The Buloke Shire Council, Cr Reid Mather will attend and invest our students with their badges of office.

Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.

School Injuries and Insurance
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students. Other insurance cover is available. The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd and Willis Australia Ltd, that provide accident insurance policies for students.


These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so. The Department cannot advise parents on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase as individual families are likely to have differing needs.

Our Grade Six Polo Tops have arrived
School Council agreed to the introduction of special polo tops for Grade Six students. Our Grade Six class of 2008 are the first to try out this new initiative. As you can see the Grade Six students were quite excited this morning when putting their new tops on for the first time.

Grade Six Class of 2008

Darci Tierney models the back of the polo top
DO YOU HAVE A HEALTH CARE CARD?

If So You Are Entitled To the ‘Education Maintenance Allowance’

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29 January 2008 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (14 July 2008). **The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 29th February 2008 for the first instalment and 3 August 2008 for the second instalment.**

The EMA provides an annual amount of $215 for primary students and $430 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques. Students turning 16 years in 2008, will be paid on a pro rata basis and not on the 70/30% basis.

### Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 75.25</td>
<td>$ 150.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 75.25</td>
<td>$ 150.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 32.25</td>
<td>$ 64.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 32.25</td>
<td>$ 64.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 215.00</td>
<td>$ 430.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2008 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29 February 2008 and prior to or on 1 August 2008, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office.

### HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS

The House swimming sports will be held this Tuesday 12th February 2008.

Periods 1 - 3 will operate as normal and students will make their way to the pool at the start of recess.

**Events will start at 11:30 a.m. and the final events (relays) will begin at 2:20 p.m.**

All parents and friends are most welcome and very much encouraged to attend.

The SRC will be running a BBQ and the Pool Kiosk will also be open.

**No student will be allowed to leave the pool area during the sports.**

### BBQ prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausages</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburger with coleslaw</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Swim Kiosk:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lemonade, Coke, Pepsi Max, Solo, Fanta</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primas</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatorade / Sports Drinks</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chips &amp; Twisties</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killer pythons</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Lolly bag</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolly pop</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milko</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Engine Raspberry Chew</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Skins</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicked Fizz</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zappos</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icy Poles</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zooper Doopers</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drought Employment Program

We are very fortunate to gain the services of the Mallee Environmental Employment Program (MEEP) team of workers to complete various tasks around the school. Last week I was organizing parent assistance for a bindii chipping working bee when I heard of the MEEP team. Thanks to Cameron Flowers and his team the bindii infestation is much decreased. I’m sure the targeted parents are also quite relieved as well. We also hope to gain the services of this team to trench and lay pipes for the recycling water program on the main oval and front lawn as well as complete the front low water garden which Mr Tyler and students started in late 2007. The school community thank very much Cameron Flowers and his MEEP team for providing this work force.

School Council Elections

The Birchip P-12 School consists of 15 members.
- 8 parent representatives
- 5 DEECD representatives including the principal
- 2 community representatives including 1 Parents’ Club representative

Each year 4 parent representatives term’s expire.
These include: Sharon Foot, Beverley Forrester, Angela Liston and Kevin Reid.

Each year 2 DEECD representatives term’s expire.
These include: Helen Digby and Janine Welton

We also have a further vacancy from the community representative with the resignation of Gary Coles.

Continuing representatives not due for re-election are:
James Boyle, Louise Lee, David Smith, Wendy Watts, Andrew Sayle, John Richmond and Gaye Bardell.

This year we require nominations for:
- 4 vacant parent representatives
- 2 vacant DEECD representatives
- 1 vacant community representative

Please see Schedule 4 attached to the newsletter concerning the notice to call an election following appropriate guidelines. Nomination forms (Schedule 5A) can be obtained from John Richmond at the school.

FOR SALE
available at the school office
Copies of ‘Wirrim 2007’ - $15.00 per copy.
CDs of the Kool Skool’s bands - $10.00
2 x as new – blue school jumpers - Size 20 & Size 14 - $60.00 each

Head Lice

There have been three cases of head lice reported this week. Please carefully check your child’s head for these each week. It is easiest to detect the nits (eggs) in sunlight. They will normally be fairly close to the scalp and will be ‘stuck’ to a hair shaft.

There are two methods of treatment.
1. The conditioner and comb method is time intensive and requires the hair being covered in conditioner, and combed thoroughly every second day until no live lice have been found for ten days.

2. Head lice products require 2 applications, exactly seven days apart. The first application kills all live lice, but not necessarily the lice inside eggs. The second treatment seven days later kills any lice which hatch before they are mature enough to lay eggs. If you are using a head lice lotion, apply to dry hair and rub it through the entire head. Head lice shampoo is applied to wet hair but use as little water as possible to wash the hair. Massage the shampoo thoroughly through the hair.

Please be vigilant and notify the school if you find any of these pests in your child’s hair.

Remember, it is no insult to you, head lice actually prefer clean hair.

Junior Tennis

All junior tennis (primary and secondary) will now be held on Saturday mornings commencing Sat 9th February 2008 at 10:00 a.m. All welcome to attend. Tennis racquets available if required. $20.00 payable to Louise Lee or Heather Hogan.

DANCE FOR FUN

Wednesday night classes with Elisha Johnson
Weds 27th February - Weds 19th March $20
Junior Classes 4-4.45pm,
Senior Classes 4.45-5.30pm
Bookings essential with the BB & LC
ph 5492 2735 or email birchipble@bigpond.com
**Birchip Junior Cricket**

Thanks to the Junior Cricketers, Mr Richmond and his Star 8 class, and Cameron Flowers and his Mallee Environmental Employment Program (MEEP) team for their efforts in clearing the bindii infestation. This has allowed Junior cricket to resume this Saturday morning 9th February 2008.

Binga V Roy

Umpires Russell Christie and Leon Hogan

Players should arrive in time for the game to start at 8:45 a.m.

We will try to finish this game on Thursday or Friday next week.

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**Simon & Kirrily Schlitz Farewell tonight**

The Birchip Watchem Football and Netball Clubs will formally farewell Simon & Kirrily Schlitz this evening at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre. A meal will also be available.

Lee 5492 2758

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**Birchip Uniting Church Sunday School**

is on this Sunday 10th February at 9:15am.

All children welcome.

For more information call Emma on 5399 0525

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**Birchip Historical Society Meeting**

Friday 15th February

8pm at the Museum

The Archives has a wealth of Birchip and family history, help us keep it in Birchip.

New Members welcome
## Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>Learn 2 x, 5 x, 10x tables, Spelling List 1</td>
<td>15th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Finish ‘About Me’ poster or PowerPoint Spelling test</td>
<td>11th Feb. 14th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td>13th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Miss Digby</td>
<td>Work order and evaluation</td>
<td>11th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Task 5.4</td>
<td>14th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Murder Ink</td>
<td>Mrs Lord</td>
<td>Assignment One</td>
<td>13th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Homework sheet</td>
<td>11th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Lord</td>
<td>One page memoir Photojournalist assignment emailed by 5pm</td>
<td>11 Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Design &amp; Tech.</td>
<td>Mr Whelan</td>
<td>Torch design</td>
<td>11th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Mr Delaney</td>
<td>Market questions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Key Knowledge questions and text readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Email Wayne Carey essay</td>
<td>11th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Read chapter 2-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Sample exam question p37</td>
<td>13th Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Catch up on work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Checkpoint and revision questions</td>
<td>13th Feb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!**
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Birchip P-12 School.
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00 p.m. on Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} February 2008.

The ballot will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February 2008.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2008 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

John Richmond
Acting Principal

Notes:
1. “Electorate of the school” means the DEECD employee electorate of the school and the Parent electorate of the school.
2. “Parent electorate of the school” means all persons (except the principal) who are parents of students of the school, other than those who are DEECD employees and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school.
3. “DEECD employee electorate of the school” means the principal of the school and –
   (a) DEECD employees engaged in work at and for the school (other than those who are parents of students of the school and who neither opt nor are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school); and
   (b) other DEECD employees who are parents of students of the school and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DEECD employee electorate of the school.
4. “DoE employee” -
   (a) means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -
      (i) under the \textit{Teaching Service Act 1981}; or
      (ii) under the \textit{Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998}; or
      (iii) by a school council of a State school; or
      (iv) under section 5 or 5A of the \textit{Education Act 1958}; or
   (v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and
   (b) does not mean a person employed under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.
5. Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.