Birchip P-12 School

Address: (PO Box 9)   
Campbell Street   
BIRCHIP 3483

Telephone: (03) 5492 2287   
(03) 5492 2553

eMail: birchip.p12@edumail.vic.gov.au

Web: http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au

School Council members:  David Smith, Angela Liston, Wendy Watts, Louise Lee, James Boyle, Kevin Reid, Margaret O’Keefe, Leigh Hogan, Cathy Bales, Nicole James, Janine Welton, Andrew Sayle, John Richmond, Russell Christie, Eileen Smith

Forthcoming Events

February

Monday 16th   
Leaping Loonies - Cultural Performance

Monday 16th → Friday 20th   
Year 8 Portland Camp

Monday 16th → Friday 20th   
Year 11 Work Experience

Tuesday 17th → Friday 20th   
Year 7 Ballarat Camp

Monday 23rd   
School Council – close of nominations

Tuesday 24th   
Grade Prep Parent Information Evening at 8:00 pm

Thursday 26th   
Shake Rattle and READ at 10:00 a.m.

Friday 27th   
Interschool swimming sports

March

Monday 2nd   
Year 7 Parent Teacher Interviews and BBQ – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3rd   
Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews – 7:00 p.m

Wednesday 4th   
Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting

Monday 9th   
Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 10th   
Physical Resources Mtg

Thursday 12th   
Shake Rattle and READ at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday 17th   
Secondary Summer Sports

Thursday 19th   
School Fete

Friday 20th   
Primary Summer Sports - Donald

Thursday 26th   
School Council

Thursday 26th   
Shake Rattle & Read at 10:00am

Friday 27th   
Presentation Ball

April

Thursday 2nd   
Senior Citizens Morning Tea & Easter Hat Parade

Friday 3rd   
Last day of school for Term 1 - 2:30 finish

How very fortunate we are to live in the Mallee!

Although we all experienced excessive temperatures over the past two weeks and last Saturday hot dry winds and 48C, we still have our homes and families. The loss of so many lives, homes and entire towns is devastating but the willingness of people to assist those in need is most heartening. We also acknowledge the fantastic efforts of the fire fighters and various aid agencies who are assisting the thousands of people who have lost so much. The school and greater community of

Birchip are now coming together in various ways to assist the victims. SRC, student and staff and other groups, have generously given of their time and money to help raise much needed funds.

This morning a huge crowd enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by the school staff from 8:00 a.m. Breakfast consisted of egg, bacon, sausage and cheese rolls. Apple and orange juices and tea and coffee were also served. The cost of breakfast was $5.00 per person with all proceeds going to Middle Kinglake Primary School.

Students were encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite superhero. There were some spectacular outfits and judging was difficult. Congratulations to all who dressed up for the occasions.

13 February 2009

Newsletter No 2
Household Hamper Raffle

All Birchip P-12 School staff are generously contributing towards the prize of a monster household hamper raffle. This is not a food hamper but includes any and many household items. It is anticipated that the value of the hamper will be in excess of $700.00. **Tickets will be $2.00 each with all proceeds going to Middle Kinglake Primary School.**

This raffle will also be ‘down the street’ for community members to purchase a ticket on **Tuesday 17th February 2009.** Thanks to the CWA ladies for their assistance here. We would request the return of all tickets by 9:00 a.m. on **Thursday 26th February 2009** to ensure all tickets are accounted for. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 27th February 2009 at lunchtime during the **Interschool Swimming Sports.**

It is anticipated that our student leaders will travel to Middle Kinglake Primary School to present the collected money from the Birchip school and community.

Principal of the school, Janette Cook, welcomed the idea and was thrilled with the moral and practical support offered to her students and community.

If any member of the community wishes to contribute further funds to the appeal under the Birchip banner, they may do so at the school office or at the Newsagency or Sharps Bakery prior to Friday 27th February 2009.

Thank you in anticipation for your generosity.

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Investiture Ceremony

The Birchip P-12 School inducted its leaders at a General Assembly on Tuesday. Cr Gail Sharp addressed the gathering about the benefits of taking an active role in the community and being community minded. Cr Sharp stated that being involved and helping others not only benefited the people one helped along the way but it also benefited those who donated their time. Cr Sharp reminded her audience that Birchip would not survive without volunteers taking on a range of roles within the community and that giving time and helping is not just hard work but it is also fun and rewarding.

Students at the school demonstrate leadership on a variety of levels. Mrs Merrilyn Kelly, bus coordinator, stated that on a practical, everyday basis, the school bus captains coordinate and look after the safety of the 113 students who travel 527 kilometres daily on the school buses.
Cr Sharp awarded badges to the elected primary and secondary SRC members who are already coordinating their efforts and working hard towards raising money for Middle Kinglake Primary School, which was razed by bushfire on Saturday.

**JUNIOR SRC EXECUTIVE**

The Primary SRC executive is:
- **President:** Claudia Lee
- **Vice President:** Riley Sayle
- **Secretary:** Dammy Owa
- **Treasurer:** Mason Bland
- **EO & OHS Officer:** Sean Hogan

**SENIOR SRC REPRESENTATIVES**

The Senior SRC president is Laura Bales and its Vice President is Eugene Liston, Jamie Lovett is Secretary and Mikaela Christie is the student representative on the School Council Physical Resources Committee.
Senior SRC Executive

House Captains are responsible for organising the House Swimming and Athletic sports. Captains are expected to organise students to compete in sporting events, enter the student information into a data base which then creates the program. On event days, the House Captains ensure the smooth running of events. Throughout the year, these young people run House Meetings and act as role models. This year Young House captains are Alex Noonan and Maddelyne Foott; Fraser House Captains are Ruben Vesikuru and Virginia Glen.
School captains elected by students and staff for 2009 are Shota Nakamura and Elsie Coffey.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Shota came to Birchip when he was in Year 5 and explained that not in his wildest dreams did he imagine being School Captain. Shota is honoured and proud to be school captain and believes he is the first Asian to be elected to the position, demonstrating that those at the Birchip P-12 School are accepting of individual differences. Elsie urged students to take part in the many challenges school presented to them. She advised her peers to become involved in drama activities, face the pressure of public speaking and learn from the many excursions and camps that they attend. Both Elsie and Shota mentioned that students have all the facilities needed to succeed; they have small class sizes and a staff that is dedicated and gives assistance well beyond their hours of duty.

Year 7 'Welcome BBQ' and parent–student–teacher interviews

Parents/carers are invited to a ‘Welcome BBQ’ at the school on Monday 2nd March 2009 starting at 6:30 p.m. The BBQ will be followed by parent–student–teacher interviews. All year seven teachers will be available to meet with parents and students. Please bring along your own meat and drinks for your family. We also request you supply a salad to share. It is anticipated that the parent-student-teacher section will commence at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Year 12 parent–student–teacher evening

There will be a parent–student–teacher interview evening on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 commencing at 7:00 p.m. The evening is for all VCE students undertaking a unit 34 sequence i.e., year 11 students doing 12 Physical Education, 12 Biology, 12 Wood, 12 Agriculture & Horticulture and of course all year 12 students. All year 12 teachers will be in attendance.

Do you wish to use the VET bus on a Wednesday to travel to Horsham?

The VET bus is also available to be used by community members wishing to travel to Horsham from Birchip on Wednesday. The bus leaves from the Birchip P-12 School bus shelter at 7:25 a.m. to arrive at Horsham at 9:15 a.m. The bus departs from Horsham at 4:10 p.m. and returns to Birchip at 5:35 p.m.

Costs: One way $14.90 ($7.40 concession) and Return $29.80 ($14.90 concession)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Barb Smith on being selected by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) to be the Grampians VCAL liaison teacher. Barb was chosen for her exemplary teaching and organization of VCAL over the past few years. Well done Barb, the school community is extremely proud of your achievements.
House Swimming Sports

A most successful house swimming sports was conducted yesterday. Although the day was much cooler than days last week an enjoyable, exciting and nail biting Interhouse swimming sports was seen. Many thanks to Mr Andrew Sayle and his team of workers for their usual efficiency and organization.

The decision came down to the last relay. Fraser House won the sports by the slim margin of 5 points.

Young House (Blue) 417 points to Fraser House (Yellow) 422 points.

Congratulations to individual champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tahlia Noonan</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Georgia Lee</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Claudia Lee</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**12 – 14 Year Old Girls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Marnie Lehmann</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Stephanie McClelland</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Molly Hogan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**15 – 16 Year Old Girls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tayla Connelly</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Chantel Emonson</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Karleigh Weir</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**17 – 20 Year Old Girls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ashlee Donnan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Alicia Emonson</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Cody Connelly</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Nikko Garcia</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sean Hogan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Nelmikko Garcia</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**12 – 14 Year Old Boys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Riley Doran</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Harrison Christie</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Tim Phelan</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eq 3rd</td>
<td>Jacob Christie</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**15 – 16 Year Old Boys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Brenten Delaney</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jake Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Tim Walder</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**17 – 20 Year Old Boys**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Marshall Connelly</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Isaac Noonan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Shota Nakamura</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two records were broken:

- 15-16 Year Old Boys 66m freestyle: Brenten Delaney – 42.0 secs
- 12-14 Year Old Girls 33 metre freestyle: Sophie Hogan 21.9 secs

Interschool Swimming is scheduled for Friday 27\textsuperscript{th} February 2009 at the Birchip Pool.

All age groups will be competing.
Rural Skills Cadetship Program for full time Tertiary Students

The main features of the program are that the:
Cadet is employed for six weeks during the year, Cadet is paid a wage from the employer, Cadet is paid $2,500 from RDV, and the Employer is paid $1,250 from RDV.
The aim of the program is to attract more graduates back to the country.
This is done by giving tertiary students an opportunity to experience work in the country and to show that after receiving their degree, they can find employment in the country.
This is a win for the student, a win for the employer and a win for the country town.
If you know of a full time tertiary student please mention this opportunity to them.
Buloke Shire Council will do its best to assist the cadet to find a suitable employer.
Applications are only accepted from councils so for more information please ring James Goldsmith at Buloke Shire Council on 5478 0174.

Applications for this program close at the end of March 2009 so you will need to be quick!
Work Experience
Good luck to year 11 students heading off for work experience next week. The placements Mrs Barb Smith has organized promise excellent experiences for all involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brett Barker</td>
<td>North West Ag</td>
<td>Swan Hill</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Bennett</td>
<td>Wimmera Machine Shop</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Automotive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcie Cooper</td>
<td>Bendigo Health Care Group (3) Birchip Pharmacy (2)</td>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>Forensic Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Birchip</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashlee Donnan</td>
<td>Charlton Massage Clinic</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Remedial Massage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Connelly</td>
<td>BCG</td>
<td>Birchip</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Fraser</td>
<td>Mallee Steel</td>
<td>Birchip</td>
<td>Engineering Fabrication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Hogan</td>
<td>St Liborius School</td>
<td>Eaglehawk</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Hogan</td>
<td>Melbourne School of Autism</td>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee James</td>
<td>Trade School</td>
<td>Longerenong</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Mattschoss</td>
<td>Nufarm Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Laverton</td>
<td>Chemical Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Totzenberger</td>
<td>Triple R</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Sound Technician/Radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
<td>Fernwood</td>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Personal Trainer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon White</td>
<td>Trade School</td>
<td>Longerenong</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Witherow</td>
<td>Hardingham</td>
<td>Donald</td>
<td>Plumbing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GET A TAX FILE NUMBER AT SCHOOL
The easiest way to apply for your TFN is while you’re at school. Students can obtain a form from the school office. Complete this form including listing your birth certificate number. Bring the completed form back to school and within 28 days your TFN will be forwarded to your address. You need to have a TFN in order to be paid for employment and apply for Youth Allowance.

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: James Boyle, Louise Lee, David Smith, Wendy Watts

Each year 2 DEECD representatives term’s expire.
These include: Andrew Sayle, Russell Christie

Continuing representatives not due for re-election are:
Angela Liston, Kevin Reid, Margaret O’Keefe, Leigh Hogan, Eileen Smith, Janine Welton

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

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.
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 valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009 for the first instalment and 7 August 2009 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **$221** for primary students and **$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% ‘parent portion’ of the EMA payment directly into the parent’s nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

### Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instalment</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Primary school*</th>
<th>Secondary school*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 77.35</td>
<td>$ 155.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 77.35</td>
<td>$ 155.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>$ 33.15</td>
<td>$ 66.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>$ 33.15</td>
<td>$ 66.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 221.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 443.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 27 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**EMA application forms are available from the school office.**

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**Birchip Watchem Junior Football Annual Meeting**
Monday 23rd February 2009 commencing at 8:00 p.m.
Birchip Community Leisure Centre

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**Junior Tennis**
Friday night Junior tennis will commence tonight.
The teams competition will start on Friday 20th February, so names need to be given to Simone or Heather by Monday 16th February
Shake Rattle & READ

What: Read Aloud and Rhyme-time demonstration and activities
Where: Birchip Community Library
When: Thursday 26 February at 10:00 am
Why: Add to your existing storytelling skills
* learn new rhymes & chants
* stimulate brain development
* borrow books from the library
* socialize with other babies and parents

** If you know someone with a young child aged 0 - 5 in the area please invite them to come along with their child.

Dates for Shake Rattle and READ for Semester 1
Term 1
26 February
12 March
26 March

Term 2
23 April
7 May
21 May
4 June
18 June

For more information contact
Nikki Coatsworth at 5492 2230

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Grade Five and Six Homework Questions
due Friday 20th February 2009

1. Of which Australian state is Sir Stanley Burbury a former governor?
2. Where did the Manx cat originate?
3. How many faces does an icosahedron have?
4. On which part of your body would you wear a tam-o’-shanter?
5. In what year did ABC TV’s Four Corners commence?
6. Name the Republic of Ireland’s longest river?
7. What kind of creatures are North American mud puppies?
8. What is the Indian dish of dhal made from?
9. Which Australian cockatoo is also known as the chokalott?
10. A gorget was a piece of armour for which part of the body?

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Annual Birchip Tennis & Cricket QUIZ NIGHT
Tonight
Friday 13th February 2009
commencing at 7:00 p.m.
Birchip Community Leisure Centre
Tables of six
Names to Simone Christie, Fiona Best or Andrew Sayle
(Note change of date due to a very busy February & March in Birchip)

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For Sale
New Slazenger cricket gloves
Left handed. Boys size.
Never been worn. $15.
Phone 5085 4253
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 office from Monday 9th February 2009 and must be lodged by 4:00 p.m. on Monday 23rd February 2009.

If a ballot is required, ballot will close at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 10th March 2009.

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 2009 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2011.</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 2009 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2011.</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
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 Teaching Service Act 1981; or
      (ii) under the 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 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.
Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Birchip P-12 School Parents’ Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Birchip P-12 School in the Staff Recreation Room. Guest speaker will be Marc Cox – Youth Worker for the Buloke Shire Council.

Please come and support our students and school. All parents are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

“Parents & Friends” News - Edition 2009.1

Parents’ Club would like to welcome all new students and their families to the Birchip P-12 School. We hope sincerely that you enjoy your journey through time at our school.

The Parents’ Club general monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 11th February 2009. As not everyone has a chance to attend, I hope the “Parents & Friends News” is helpful to highlight what is happening at our school and how we, as parents, can be involved in our school.

Our Principal, Mr John Richmond, attended our meeting and after a quick tour of all the improvements at the school (bollards in the garden, new paved areas, re-organized offices and teaching rooms, video conference equipment) we were then given a comprehensive account of what is happening at the school. Two highlights of John’s talk: the announcement that Birchip P-12 School has been identified as a Victorian State Reference School for Performance and Development Culture and the school’s response to the recent bush fires.

Our yearly “WISH LIST” was discussed and the Parents’ Club will be FUNDRAISING this year for:

- a new fridge for the year 9 and 10 students
- refrigerated bubble tap system
- 20” Macintosh computer

Other items will be considered depending on funds. We will still provide money for the School Magazine and book prizes for Presentation Night at the end of the year.

CATERING EVENTS TO COME:
Quarterhorse Day is 15th March, School Fete 19th March and Presentation Ball 27th March. We acknowledge that the events are all close together and we do very much appreciate every one’s contribution.

Lastly, a plea to all parents to come along to Parents’ Club meetings and have an input to your children’s education at Birchip P-12 School. Mark it on the calendar.

NEXT MEETING: AGM 4th March 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Staff recreation Room.

Wanted: Potted “Drought Tolerant Plants” for School Fete. Cacti, succulents or other all appreciated.

Contact: Ros McCallum 50 772 218 after hours and/or Trish Lehmann 50 854 204

Rhonda Bell  President
Ros McCallum  Secretary
PADDOCK TO PORT PHOTO EXHIBITION

On NOW until March 8,
AT THE LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m

Or by appointment:
0409972228 or 53990564

Entry $2.00

Buloke Shire & Hobson’s Bay initiative.
Staff and students have been shocked by the devastation of the Victorian Bushfires. Some community members have experienced the fires first hand as they volunteered to be part of a crew to assist in fire affected areas. As we watched the images on television and listened to live reports on the radio it became apparent that some type of response was required.

This morning school and community members joined together in the quadrangle to share egg and bacon rolls, tea, coffee and juice for breakfast. Many students dressed up as superheroes to acknowledge the contribution of the CFA and other volunteer organisations in the fire effort. The proceeds from several activities this week and a major raffle will go to King Lake West Primary School which was totally destroyed in the fires.

“We want students to be curious, to commune with the world around them.” (Costa 2007)