Forthcoming Events

February
Friday 29th  Interschool swimming sports

March
Wednesday 5th  Parents’ Club AGM 7.30pm
Monday 10th  Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 11th  Physical Resources Meeting
Thursday 13th  School Council
Friday 14th  Primary Summer Sports - Donald
Wednesday 19th  Northern Zone Swimming Sports

April
Monday 7th  Friday Day Term 2
Tuesday 8th  Physical Resources Meeting
Thursday 17th  Summer Sports - Hopetoun
Friday 25th  Anzac Day

May
Monday 28th  Grade 6 Maldon Camp

2008 Interhouse Swimming Sports

A warm day saw an enjoyable and exciting Interhouse Swimming Sports last Friday. Many thanks to Mr Andrew Sayle and his team of workers for their usual efficiency and organization. Young (blue) house were the successful house beating Fraser 473 points to 421

Congratulations to individual champions:
Gr 5/6  Sophie Hogan & Jacob Christie
U14  Laura Lee & Jake Hogan

U16  Tayla Connelly & Brenten Delaney
U17  Shota Nakamura
U21  Cody Connelly & Steven Reid

Two records were broken:
Under 16 Boys Relay: Fraser – 1 min 25.2 secs
Grade 5/6 Girls 33 metre freestyle: Sophie Hogan 23.8 secs
Sophie beat Nicole Leersen’s 1989 record. Well done Sophie.

Champions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Molly Hogan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Hayley Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<td>Nikko Garcia</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tayla Connelly</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Karleigh Weir</td>
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3rd Place

Kate Watts  Y  11

1st Young  473 points
2nd Fraser  421 points

Interschool Swimming is scheduled for 29th February 2008 at Birchip.
All age groups will be competing. (under 13 through to under 21).

<table>
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<td>U16 Boys</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brenten Delaney</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ellie Trollope</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jak Goldsmith</td>
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Activities this week

Year 8 Portland Camp
The students have enjoyed some nice beach weather. Our students have received many positive comments from various members of the public. Many thanks to Mr Christie, Miss Barclay and Mr Whelan and Julian Liston for their care and attention during the week.

The year 8 travellers are scheduled to return to the school by approximately 4:00 p.m.

Year 7 Ballarat Camp
The Year 7 students have enjoyed the many and varied activities organized for them during the past 4 days. Again it was lovely to hear the many positive comments from the general public who stop to say what a terrific group of students. As I write this, the bus is broken down – let’s hope it’s fixed very soon. Thanks to Mr Tyler, Miss Johnson and Mrs Barb Smith for their care of our students.

Back Row: Jake Hogan, Steven Reid, Brenten Delaney
Middle Row: Cody Connelly, Shota Nakamura, Laura Lee, Tayla Connelly
Front Row: Jacob Christie, Sophie Hogan
The year 7 travellers are scheduled to return to the school by approximately 5:00 p.m.

Year 11 Work Experience
As reported last week our year 11 students were at various work venues during the week. Reports thus far have been very positive. Thanks to Mrs Barb Smith for organizing student placements.

Year 12 Activity
Our year 12 students enjoyed a special day yesterday. WorkCo representatives facilitated a session on How to present for an interview, completing and submitting an appropriate resume and role playing the actual interview. Declan Fay (Author and screen writer for Rove McManus) and Quentin McDurmott (4 Corners) took the students through a writing workshop for English and then gave a motivational talk. Students lunched in the BCG garden. Thanks very much to Mrs Eileen Smith for her organization of the day.

Next Generation Exhibition – Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
Genevieve O’Donnell’s VCE Art work is being exhibited in the Next generation – VCE Art and Design 2008 at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery. The collection was officially opened last Friday 15th February 2008. Genevieve’s art pieces entitled ‘Stitched Graffiti’ is a digital photo manipulated using Adobe Photoshop then embellished with free-hand machine stitching. Genevieve received an incentive award of 150 free prints from Thornton Richards Camera House. Congratulations Genevieve.

Parents Club AGM
5TH MARCH
7.30PM
STAFF RECREATION ROOM

The New Rose Garden Fence - WOW
Thanks to Dave Valentine for his construction of the new rose garden fence. It looks quite impressive and has already received many positive comments. Further site works will take place with the removal of the garden table and seating to make way for a path which will then link the existing wood-metal room 4 to our new technology shed being constructed by Mr Whelan and his team.

Head Lice
There have been no new reports this week, however it is most important that frequent checks
Easter Parade and Performances
On Tuesday 14th March, at 10.00 in the school gallery, P-6 students will present their annual hat parade and musical items. All welcome.

YEAR PREP PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
It was great to see so many interested prep parents in attendance at the information evening organized and run by Mrs Welton. Mrs Welton discussed many issues relating to prep students starting school. Literacy and numeracy featured strongly. Many thanks to Mrs Welton for her efforts.

SCHOOL BELL TIMES
Apologies to parents and staff for not including the new school bell times in newsletter #1. Here they are now.

NORMAL SCHOOL DAY - 7 PERIODS – 3:21 P.M. FINISH
Each period = 42 minutes
Recess = 20 minutes
Lunch = 57 minutes
08:55 a.m.  Warning Bell
09:00 a.m.  Home Group Assembly #1
09:05 a.m.  Period 1
09:47 a.m.  Period 2
10:29 a.m.  Period 3
11:11 a.m.  RECESS
11:26 a.m.  Warning Bell
11:31 a.m.  Period 4
12:13 a.m.  Period 5
12:55 p.m.  LUNCH
01:23 p.m.  Yard Duty Bell
01:52 p.m.  Home Group Assembly #2
01:57 p.m.  Period 6
02:39 p.m.  Period
03:21 p.m.  END OF SCHOOL DAY

Victorian Public Transport
Student concession Cards
Students wanting to organise a travel concession card are advised to collect an application form from the office, obtain passport suitable photos, present the form and photos to office staff for certification and then take the form and money to an issue location as listed on the form.
The school photos used in the past for the application forms are now not suitable.

2008 is the Year of Rat (Mouse)
Is it true to say that your personality can be attributed to the animal of the year in which you were born?
It is said that people born in the year of the rat are easily bothered; they can be good fun and are always loyal and charming! 2008 is also the International Year of Languages. Have a great Year 2008!!  Ms Nakamura

Competitions
There are lots of competitions on at the moment with some excellent prizes. Lots of organisations virtually give money away to people who write on interesting topics.

1. As part of National Youth Week 2008 five National Talent Competitions – RockIT, WriteIT, ShootIT, DesignIT and SnapIT – will be held as a way of unearthing some of Australia’s youngest and most dynamic musicians, writers, filmmakers, designers and photographers. And you can win some awesome prizes! If you go to http://www.youthweek.com you will find details of the competition and places where if you write twenty five words you will be eligible for lots of prizes.

2. Writers wanted! Students are invited to enter their short stories or poems and battle it out for many great cash prizes. $1000 prizes for each poetry and short story winner and a choice of Nintendo Wii plus game, Sony digital camera, 8GB Ipod Nano and $100 music voucher or Nintendo DS Lite and 3 games. Second prize $250, third prize $150 and the fifteen finalists win $20 each. Entries from Kindergarten to Year 12 welcomed. Entry free and must be in by March 21st 2008

3. The school fete is on Thursday 13th March 2008 and we need publicity! Prizes will be given to the best secondary and primary school poster. Get going, create and have fun. Posters must be in to Mrs Eileen Smith by Monday 3rd March 2008.

4. Wimmera Regional Library has a short story competition that closes on Friday 9th May 2008. Prizes are
Open: 1st $500  2nd $25
Teenage: 1st $150  2nd $75  3rd $50
Junior: 1st $100  2nd $50  3rd $25
Details and entry forms are available from the school library or www.wrlc.org.au

If you want any information or assistance see Mrs Eileen Smith
LAST CALL - 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

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<td>$ 150.50</td>
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<td>School</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
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<td>$ 64.50</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$ 215.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 430.00</strong></td>
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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.

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### General Knowledge Questions

**This weeks questions**
1. In which country is Mount Hagen?
2. Which continent is the home of the quetzal?
3. What do the letters SCUBA stand for?
4. What is pelota?
5. Which skipper lost the America’s Cup when Australia was victorious?
6. How many humps has a Bactrian Camel?
7. With which animals did Hannibal cross the Alps?
8. Is a squirrel a rodent or a mammal?
9. How long is a regulation hockey match?
10. From what did Cecil Rhodes make his wealth?

**Answers to last weeks questions**
1. Traditionally, what does a cooper make? - Barrels
2. The name Segovia is associated with which musical instrument? - Guitar
3. Over which Mountains does the Chinook blow? - Rockies
4. What was the first single of The Spice Girls? - Wannabe
5. Which desert is on the US Mexico border? - Sonoran/Gila
6. Baltrusol, Medinah and Oakmont are all types of what? - Golf courses in America
7. In a church what is a clerestory? - Row of windows in the upper wall
8. What was the original name for Scrabble? - Lexico
9. Which country developed the cuckoo clock? - Switzerland
10. What do you fear if you suffer from canophobia? - Dogs

A message from School Nurse - Kerrie McCosh

Thank you to all the Prep parents who have returned their School Nurse Health Questionnaires (for those who haven't, please return it ASAP).

These forms are now being reviewed and your child will be assessed throughout the coming year according to our school nurse guidelines (this means your child may be seen at any stage throughout the year – perhaps not until term 4).

After your child has been seen, you will be notified in writing about the assessment.

Children from older grades have the opportunity for a School Nurse assessment as per previous years. If parents have any concerns they can fill in a referral form at the school office.

If you have any questions about the School Nursing Program you can speak with your school or contact your school nurse Kerrie McCosh 0428 319 636.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

An Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is URGENTLY seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2008 from Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Holland, Ireland, Brazil, the USA and Canada. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, schools, transportation, insurances and support systems. Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceast@scce.com.au

Buloke Family Fun Day

The Buloke Shire Council with the support of the community will once again be holding the Buloke Family Fun Day. The event will be held on Sunday 30th March 2008 in Sea Lake. The Family Fun Day aims to provide a day of entertainment for the whole family as well as involve and celebrate youth and their talents through technology, music and visual art.

Calling all young local musicians

Enter your band, solo act or performance in a local push start event to be held in the Buloke Shire on Sunday 30th March, 2008 at Sea Lake.

Push Start is a state-wide music showcase for young and emerging performers under the age of 21 years in Victoria. Formerly known as Battle of the Bands, Push Start provides opportunities for young performers to gain recognition at local, regional and state levels. From the local heats, acts are selected to enter regional finals. Make your mark on the music industry!

2008 Buloke Youth Art Exhibition

The aim of the 2008 Buloke youth Art Exhibition is to promoter the creative achievements and excellence of young people outside the sporting arena. This event is being staged to showcase the remarkable and largely hidden talents of young people living within the Shire.

Entries will be sought from young people who display considerable talent in the areas of painting, photography, drawing, woodwork, metalwork, textiles, sculpture, and computer graphics. If work has been created in another medium, it will also be included. Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, craftsmanship and any significance it may bear to the Buloke Shire. Entries are open to people under 21, so past students may enter.

The emphasis is not so much in the competition as the showcasing so the organisers are hoping for high quality contributions. Each entry must be accompanied by a profile and photograph of each entrant outlining their name, year level, school, interests and explanation of their entry. Entries with more than one contributor are allowed and will be taken into consideration during the judging.

There will be great prizes up for grabs in both the music and art competitions so get your entries in quick.

Entries will be collected from and returned to your local school or Shire Office prior to the event by organisers of the Buloke Family Fun Day. For further details contact Marc Cox, Buloke Shire Youth Development Officer, on 5497 1300 or email marc@buloke.vic.gov.au
Birchip P-12 School, School Council Elections 2008

Parent representatives
Nominations received for the 4 vacant parent representatives of school council:
Angela Liston
Kevin Reid
Margaret O'Keefe
Leigh Hogan

There being no further nominations, I declare these four people named above duly elected to the Birchip P-12 School, School Council for a period of 2 years.

DEECD employee representatives
Following the nomination process to gain 3 DEECD employee representatives a ballot was necessary and subsequently held. I declare these three people named below duly elected to the Birchip P-12 School, School Council.

Russell Christie
Eileen Smith
Janine Welton

John Richmond
Returning Officer
BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL

The Annual General Meeting of the Birchip P-12 School, School Council will be held on Wednesday 19th March 2008 at 8:00 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room.

Our new school council consists of 15 members:
8 parent representatives:
David Smith, Louise Lee, James Boyle, Wendy Watts, Kevin Reid, Angela Liston, Leigh Hogan, Margaret O’Keefe
4 DEECD representatives:
Andrew Sayle, Eileen Smith, Russell Christie, Janine Welton
1 Principal / Executive Officer:
John Richmond
2 co-opted representatives:
1 – Parents’ Club representative
1 – Community representative

Thank you to our 5 retiring School Council representatives in Philip Scambler, Gary Coles, Sharon Foot, Bev Forrester and Helen Digby. Your efforts and support of our school is much appreciated.

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**Junior Cricket**

Results from the last couple of games

**Game 7:** Indoor Cricket Game: Hayden 83 defeated Roy 65

**Hayden**
Aaron Valentine / Nicholas Bales 34 runs
Royce Bennett / Riley Sayle 29 runs

**Roy**
Luke Lovett / Ethan Cooper 24 runs

**Game 8:** Binga 108 defeated Roy 57

**Binga**
Shota Nakamura 37 retired
Jake Hogan 14
Riley Doran 13
Harrison Christie 2/2

**Roy**
Eugene Liston 18
Sean Hogan 10
Joe Boyle 2/3
Dean Lovett 2/7

**Game 9 Continues this week** with Binga chasing the 114 made by Haydos

**Haydos**
Marshall Connelly 36 retired
Aaron Valentine 28
Royce Bennett 15

**Binga**
Harrison Christie 2/3

Current Ladder (not including this game being played)

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<th>Team</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haydos</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>476</td>
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</table>

If points are level the teams in the grand final will be decide by the amount of runs each team has made.

**Grand Final:** Thursday 28th February - George Cartwright Oval
Start: 4:00pm (straight after school)
Anticipated finish will be 6:30-7:00pm
BBQ and presentations to follow
Parents and friends welcome.

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**Dance for Fun**

Classes with Elisha Johnson start next week:
Wednesday 27th February 2008
Junior classes – 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Senior classes – 4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
If you are interested please contact Simone Christie at the Learning Centre.
Junior Tennis
Tennis for all juniors will continue on Saturday mornings until the end of term one.
Please pay subs on Saturday or to Julie Coffey at the school office.
$20.00 for the Pee Wee program $25.00 Juniors

Tennis tomorrow
Saturday 23rd February 2008
Ballapur and Tchum tennis teams will be playing the St. Arnaud teams at the earlier time of 11 a.m. tomorrow in Birchip to allow Birchip players to play and attend the wedding.
Could players please bring sandwiches or a platter to provide the visitors with lunch and also a plate of afternoon tea.

Birchip Watchem Junior Football Annual Meeting
Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Birchip Community Leisure Centre.
- All positions filled.
- Discussion on Under 16 structure due to low numbers.

Homework!

<table>
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<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Me Assignment Spelling</td>
<td>26th Feb 28th Feb</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
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<td>Graphic Art</td>
<td>Miss Heyden</td>
<td>Comic Assignment</td>
<td>29th Feb</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Mrs Lord</td>
<td>Home page design</td>
<td>25th Feb</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Lawmakers</td>
<td>Mr Delaney</td>
<td>Family Rules</td>
<td>25th Feb</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Maths Methods</td>
<td>Miss Langley</td>
<td>Review questions</td>
<td>26th Feb</td>
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<tr>
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<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Langley/Barclay</td>
<td>Up to date</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Lord</td>
<td>Romulus, My Father, short answers</td>
<td>26th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Analyse “Sorry” articles</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!

FOR SALE
Baby goods, change table, cot, bassinette etc.
Roof Rack to suit Nissan Patrol or similar
Leotards - hot pink, size 6 & 8 - Black, size 10 & 14 - Lilac, size 8
Kids Fairy skirts - $6.
Phone 5493 5266 or 0427 762 274
Parents Club Fete Catering
Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} March

The March Fete is fast approaching and as always Parents’ Club will be relying on your generosity of donations of time and food to our main school fundraiser of the year.

\textit{Cake and produce stall workers}
5.30 - 7.00 Lyn Boyle, Carol Kemp, Veronica Ryan, Bev Forrester

\textit{Dinner workers 5.45pm onwards}
Gaye Bardell and Rhonda Bell (Coordinators) Kerry Barker, Jan Barbetti, Carmel Rumbold, Helen Casey, Brenda Doran, Sharon Foott, Geraldine Gladman, Joan Glen.

Salads (can be delivered to school during the day, or sent with students in the morning)

\textit{Tomato and onion salad, 4 litres}. Amanda Reid, Sonia Phelan, Diona Cooper, Pam McKelvie, Barb Pellegrino

\textit{Feta Salad, 4 litres}. Sharlene Connelly, Simone Christie

\textit{Rice Salad, 4 litres}. Emma Bennett, Gail Smith, Nicole James, Claire Cook

\textit{Potato Salad, 4 litres}. Patrice Rickard, Carol Reid, Jacinta Connelly, Ros McClelland, Pia Coffey

\textit{Noodle Salad, 4 litres}. Cate Milne, Jenny (G) Noonan, Mandy Moloney, Heather Hogan, Rachael Lovett

\textit{Tossed Salad, 4 litres}. Carmel Rumbold, Kelli-ann Sheahan, Michelle Lee, Rachael Colbert, Tracey Bennett, Noeline Hogan, Cathy Young, Jackie Tierney, Kim Driscoll, Leonie Naylor

\textit{Coleslaw, 4 litres}. Carly Sharp, Sue Cozens


\textit{Beetroot, 2 x 425g tin}. Katherine Southall, Keiko Nakamura, Donald Cooper, Greg Martin.

\textit{Ice, 10 bags}. Angela Liston

Also we have some amazing prizes for our Raffles this year, and we would like the following people to spend a couple of hours selling raffle tickets down the street before the fete which would be greatly appreciated.

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\hline
\textbf{Friday 29th February} & \textbf{Friday 7th March} \\
\hline
10am - 12noon & Emma Bennett, Amanda Reid \\
12noon - 2pm & Wendy Collins, Helen Casey \\
2pm - 4pm & Janet Smith, Marcia Mallia \\
4pm - 6pm & Sharon Flowers, Julie Weir \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

If anyone is unable to perform the set task, we would be grateful if you could arrange your own replacement or please contact me on 5085 4204

We are aware that a lot of people work and are busy, but if I have put you under undue pressure please let me know.

Many thanks, Trish Lehmann
Enter 'Battle of the Bands' for young musicians or groups looking to kick-start their careers. Register now and perform live in front of 1,000 people. Winners go to Regional Finals.

Buloke Youth Art Exhibition: Have you recently completed a high quality piece of artwork? Painting, photography, drawing, woodwork, metalwork, sculpture, computer graphics. Judged on quality, individuality, reflection of Buloke Shire Region and potential talent.

Where: Buloke Family Fun Day, Sea Lake
When: 30th March, 2008
Entries Close 14th March

For information or to register contact Marc Cox—54971300 or marc@buloke.vic.gov.au