Forthcoming Events

March
Monday 9th  Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 10th  Year 7 Parent Teacher Interviews and BBQ – 5 p.m. start
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
Monday 20th  School Resumes
Saturday 25th  Anzac Day

Household Hamper Raffle

Congratulations to Nita Wilson, the lucky winner of the huge Household Hamper Raffle. The raffle raised approximately $3,500.

To date our fundraising efforts have realised approximately $9,500. This is thanks to the generosity of our school and entire Birchip community. Thank you to everyone for their amazing efforts. It is great to see that even amid drought, dust storms and economic downturns, our community can rise to assist those in need.

Middle Kinglake Primary School is reforming as portable classrooms on the Kinglake oval and will re-open to students mid March. Birchip P-12 School student leaders will travel to Middle Kinglake Primary School to present the collected money from the Birchip School and community after they have established again.

Funding News

Our school was identified within the ‘Better Schools Today’ project and will receive $500,000 to upgrade and refurbish the older ‘mathematics’ facility into a ‘flexible learning space’ with computers and interactive whiteboards. The money will also develop a walled garden area to be used as an outside learning space. The space between the primary toilets and the Grade 5 & 6 room will be decked and roofed to provide flexible outside learning space. Room 9, will be refurbished and will become a mathematics room. Approximately $80,000 will be spent on interactive whiteboards, 20 x notebook computers and a notebook trolley.

Today we received excellent news that our submission for funding for a Trade Training Centre in the Engineering area was approved. $223,000 will be spent upgrading the existing engineering shed which will allow students to further develop their skills in this area.

We are presently engaging contractors to install a 3kW/hr solar panel, solar hot water service and a 250,000 litre tank. Our $50,000 green voucher will be used to fund these.

We received approval to purchase replacement computers through the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund. We hope to purchase 35 desktop machines in early April.

We still await final approval for our skills centre application which will fund the development of a commercial kitchen. We expect to receive $81,000 in funding for this.
All up a very busy year in the school’s building development – all of which will allow more flexible and wider learning options for our students.

**2009 YEAR SEVEN BARBECUE & PARENT - TEACHER - STUDENT NIGHT**

Tuesday 10th March 2009 is set aside for this barbecue and parent-teacher-student night. This has been rescheduled from Monday 2nd March 2009.

I would urge you take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress thus far, meet with your child's teachers and discuss any concerns we or you as parents may have. Students are also encouraged to attend.

The evening will take the following format:

5:00 p.m. Year 7 teachers will be available for individual discussion with parents and students.

You should discuss your child's progress in each unit.

7.00 p.m. Barbecue in the school quadrangle.

BYO meat and drinks

Salads, paper plates, cups, sauce and bread and of course the BBQ provided.

Throughout the evening, tea, coffee, cordial and biscuits will be available in the Staff Recreation Room.

**2009 Year Twelve Parent - Teacher - Student Night**

We were encouraged last Tuesday evening with 100% turn up for our Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student evening. Thank you to all parents and students for their interest and willingness to discuss their progress and other issues.

**SACs next week include**

- English
- Australian History
- Biology
- Agriculture and Horticulture

**Maths is Marvellous**

**You can count on it!**

Show children how you use mathematics in your everyday activities, e.g. measuring ingredients, estimating costs, calculating change, timing how long things take to cook, preparing shopping lists, using calibrated containers, using kitchen scales, tendering money, playing card and board games, telling time, looking for patterns in the environment, reading house numbers, reading vehicle number plates.

**HINAMATSURI [Girls' Day]**

Tuesday 3rd March was the HINAMATSURI or Girls' Day.

Primary girls enjoyed their showing off their dolls and dressing up. The boys were happy to taste sweets from Japan.
Alpine School Meeting
There will be a parent and student information evening on Tuesday 10th March 2009 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Hopetoun Secondary College – Dodgshun Street, Hopetoun, 3396. Russell Shem the Alpine School ‘Dinner Plain’ Campus Principal will attend and take those present through the Alpine School journey and what is needed.

Gypsum needed:
We would like to spread some gypsum over the primary playing area to allow greater drainage. If a farmer/parent could assist us in this endeavour we would very much appreciate it. Please contact Dave Valentine on 0428 844 713 if you can assist in this area.

School Council
Congratulations to Merrilyn Kelly on her nomination and subsequent election for the 1 year DEECD vacancy.

Our School Council is now almost confirmed with the following representation:

Newly elected parent representatives
David Smith
Wendy Watts
Louise Lee
Cameron Flowers

Newly elected DEECD representatives
Russell Christie
Andrew Sayle

Co-opted Parents’ Club representative
Cathy Bales

Co-opted Community representative
To be decided at annual meeting in March.

Grade Five/Six Homework Questions – due Friday 13th March 2009
1. How is the plural of quiz spelt?
2. Which animal is listed first in most dictionaries?
3. In colloquial Australian, what is an “Oxford scholar”?
4. In metric measurements, what is the length of a cricket pitch?
5. The Dalmatian was developed in which country? Yugoslavia
6. What is the maximum number of dots and dashes used for any letters in Morse code?
7. What colour is citrine?
8. How many teeth has an adult with a full set?
9. What do mendicants do for a living?
10. Moraine is debris carried down and deposited by what?

Answers to Homework Questions – due Friday 6th March 2009
1. What is February’s birthstone? Amethyst
2. The disease Lassa fever is transmitted to man by what creature? Rat
3. What do steel bands use as their instruments? Petrol drums
4. Name Canada’s main port. Montreal
5. Is color blindness more common in men or women? Men
6. What Australian birds are also known as bell magpies? Currawongs
7. What are female kangaroos called? Does
8. The artist Canaletto is renowned for his paintings of which Italian city? Venice
9. In Roman numerals what is CD plus CC? DC
10. In skiing what is a dauerlauf? A cross country endurance race.
Interschool Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all students who represented the Birchip P-12 School last Friday in the Interschool Swimming Sports against Hopetoun and Rainbow. Well done also to the many students and parents who cheered our students on.

Although the scores were close at various stages, we ended up winning the sports by a comfortable margin

Birchip 611 points
Hopetoun 532 points
Rainbow 367 points

Individual Champions results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12-13 Girls</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Marnie Lehmann</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>Sophie Hogan</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>Dean Lovett</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 Girls</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Laura Lee</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tim Walder</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Luke Lovett</td>
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<td>15 Girls</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Brenten Delaney</td>
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<td>Jake Hogan</td>
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<td>16 Girls</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Taylor Connelly</td>
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<td>Marshall Connelly</td>
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<td>17 Girls</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20 Girls</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ashlee Donnan</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tyler Lehmann</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Shota Nakamura</td>
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<td>18-20 Boys</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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The Northern Zone swimming sports is on the Friday 20th March 2009 at Swan Hill.

Students are selected according to their performance and times at the interschool, sports.

A team is being finalised at the moment and transport/permission forms will be sent home shortly.

Many thanks to Mr Sayle and all staff for their efforts in ensuring our presentation of the sports was excellent.

MIPS TIPS - Resume Writing for Students

A resume is a written document that communicates your work-related skills and abilities to a prospective employer. You can think of a resume as an advertisement, with ‘you’ as the product! You want to convince an employer that they should hire you over the other applicants. Writing a resume can be tricky, but there are some good online tools:

- [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)

are just some of the places to start. Once you’ve made a draft, take it to your Careers Teacher or MIPS Coordinator for double-checking, then you’ll have it ready to go when that dream job arises!

Lizzie Wilde

Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) Coordinator
North Central Local Learning & Employment Network
Mobile: 0429 148 399
Telephone: 54 911 144
Email: llen5@bigpond.com

Presentation Ball

The Birchip P-12 School Presentation Ball will be held on Friday 27th March 2009 at the Birchip Town Hall. Presentation is at 8.30pm.

Tickets:  Adults - $12.00  Students - $5.00  Viewing (upstairs) - $3.00  Primary Students – Free

You are strongly encouraged to pre-book your tickets to the ball. Pre-booked tickets must be paid for when the booking is made. Bookings can be made at the school office during school times. Tickets are also available on the night at the door.

Alcohol:  Whilst alcohol may be consumed by adult attendees of the Presentation Ball, NO Birchip P-12 School student may consume alcohol during the evening.

Wanting to borrow for Presentation Ball

Clear fairy lights. They will be returned to you after the Presentation Ball on Friday 27th March. If you can help could you please drop them at the school office or contact Emily Hogan or Kate Watts.

P-6 Art Room

Recycled items

Thank you to all those people who have sent items for use in the art room. At the moment we have plenty of supplies and limited space to store any more items. We will advertise when further items are required.
Birchip P-12 School - Parents & Friends News

Parents Club Annual General Meeting was held at the Birchip P12 School on Wednesday 4th March 2009. Marc Cox, John Richmond and Simone Christie were welcomed. John (Chair for the AGM elections) began the meeting by acknowledging the work performed by the Parents’ Club and thanked the Parents’ Club for all the work, fundraising and catering that was done during 2008. The main business of the AGM was to elect the office bearers for 2009.

Our new executive consist of:
- President: Jenny Hogan
- Vice President: Trish Lehmann
- Secretary: Ros McCallum
- Treasurer: Deanne Botheras
- Catering Manager: Trish Lehmann
- School Council Rep: Cathy Bales

Rhonda Bell, our retiring President, was then given a warm vote of thanks by all who were present at the meeting.

The March General Meeting opened with our guest speaker Marc Cox, Youth Officer for the Buloke Shire, taking the floor. Marc gave a wonderful presentation detailing his work with the youth, aged 12 - 25 years who live within the Buloke Shire. He spoke of making the Buloke Shire a “better place” for youth, improving outcomes for youth and of the various activities held. Marc talked about some of the main issues affecting our youth – Declining and Retaining Population, Binge Drinking, Lack of Activities/Opportunities (apart from sport) and Rural Isolation. He also spoke about Key Youth Strategies in the Buloke Shire—youth to explore and fulfil their potential, access to education and training, good health and well being, contribution to and informed decision making and lastly links and supports. Marc’s talk generated much interest and we thank Marc for his time, energy and input.

John then presented his report which detailed all the “happenings” at the school. The trial involving a funded netbook computer for our current year 5 was discussed at length.

Catering Activities to note in your diary:
- Quarter Horse Day Sunday 15th March 2009 – roster of workers
- Birchip P12 School Fete Thursday 19th March 2009 – roster of workers and food
- Presentation ball Friday 27th March 2009 – roster of workers and food

Not everyone is able to attend the meetings so we hope this information is a useful addition to the school newsletter.

Ros McCallum
Secretary
AFL Football Clinic

Last Monday 42 eager Grade 4, 5 and 6 students ventured to Donald to participate in an AFL football clinic conducted by players from the Essendon Football Club. There were some enthusiastic teachers as well with Mr Welton sporting a gleaming Essendon football jumper. After the players introduced themselves, the students were sorted into eight groups where they undertook a variety of tasks. These included marking and handball drills, a bumping activity and kicking for distance and kicking for accuracy. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to receive tuition from players of the calibre of Jobe Watson, Patrick Ryder and Angus Monfries. At the conclusion of the session a question and answer activity was held and Seamus Lowry managed to win one of the prizes on offer. The children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the morning. Many thanks to Mrs Weir for providing additional transport and to Mr Welton for his organization of the event.
Nick Martin with Leroy Jetta

Sam Milne

Bachar Houli, Patrick Ryder, Jobe Watson, Courteney Dempsey, Angus Monfries, unknown footballer, Tayte Pears, Leroy Jetta and Reece Magin.

Luana Baird and Tahlia Flowers with Jobe Watson
Word Quiz

The English Department is working to increasing students’ vocabulary and each week we will be listing two words for students and parents to talk about together.

Which words are closest in meaning to the underlined word?

The **acid** smell of the burning paint was terrible.

a) Spicy  
b) Bitter  
c) Tangy  
d) Caustic  

The girl hadn’t many friends because she was considered **haughty**.

a) Aloof  
b) Humble  
c) Snobbish  
d) Timid  

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**ANNUAL SCHOOL FETE**

Fete Day is scheduled for Thursday 19th March 2009.

Parents’ Club is running a slightly different staff this year and are seeking donations of drought tolerant plants and good quality seconds hand books. Please refer to the parent roster for salads below.

**RAFFLES** - **ALL RAFFLES ARE $1.00 PER TICKET**

There will be various raffles running prior to and on fete day. These include:

- Prep – Grade 3  
  Quilt Raffle donated by Val Connelly
- Grade 4 – Grade 6  
  Michael Hussey signed cricket bat
- Year 7  
  Monster Lolly Hamper Raffle
- Year 8 – Year 10  
  Michael Hussey signed memorabilia & Sony digital frame
- Year 11 & 12  
  Two nights’ accommodation in Hall’s Gap

The primary students have organised a lolly stall and your generosity in supplying lollies is sought. Year 7 students have been asked to bring confectionary to put in the Monster Lolly Hamper Raffle. Year 9 students are asked to bring five (5) pieces of fruit for fruit salad please.

**All raffle books whether sold or unsold are due back at school on Tuesday 17th March 2009.** Please ensure your son or daughter has their raffle ready on Tuesday to avoid follow up.

Students in their Home Groups have organised lots of activities that start at 5:30 p.m. A sit down roast meal will be served from 6:00 p.m.

**Please note, normal classes are scheduled for the day but the school day will begin at 11:00 a.m. and finish at 4:30 p.m. School buses will deliver children to school by 11:00 a.m. but there will be no homeward bound buses in the afternoon.**

Primary students will have Red Faces acts starting at 4:00 p.m. and parents, family and friends are most welcome to come and watch the children perform.

Sausages will be ready for children to eat at 5:00 p.m. so if you want your child to eat before you come to the fete.

If you have any inquiries about the running of the day, please contact the school.
Fete Day Schedule

10:55 a.m.  Warning Bell
11:00 a.m.  Home Group Assembly #1
11:05 a.m.  Period 1
11:45 a.m.  Period 2
12:35 p.m.  **LUNCH**
01:00 p.m.  Yard Duty Bell
01:25 p.m.  Home Group Assembly #2
01:30 p.m.  Period 3
02:10 p.m.  Period 4
02:50 p.m.  **AFTERNOON RECESS**
03:10 p.m.  Period 5 - *End of school day for Primary Students*
03:50 p.m.  Period 6
04:00 p.m.  Round One of Red Faces – gallery – parents, family & friends most welcome
04:30 p.m.  **END OF SCHOOL DAY**
05:00 p.m.  Sausages will be ready for the primary children to eat.
05:30 p.m.  Fete commences
06:00 p.m.  Roast meal served

**Parents’ Club Fete Catering - Thursday 19th March 2009**

The March Fete is fast approaching and we will be relying on your generosity of donations of food to one of our main school fundraisers of the year.

**Workers from 5:30 p.m.**
Jenny Hogan, Cathy Bales, Gaye Bardell, Bev Forrester, Deanne Botheras, Janine Paley, Joan Glen,
Salads can be delivered to school during the day, or sent with students in the morning.
We would appreciate Salads to be at school by 5:30 p.m.

**Tomato and onion salad 4 litres**
Amanda Reid, Sonia Phelan, Diona Cooper, Pam McKelvie,

**Rice Salad 4 litres**
Emma Bennett, Gaye Bardell, Bissy Ajithkumar, Kerry Barker

**Feta Salad 4 litres**
Belinda Randall, Marjorie Mattschoss, Val Connelly, Sharlene Connelly,

**Potato Salad 4 litres**
Patrice Rickard, Carol Reid, Claire Cook, Jacinta Connelly, Pia Coffey, Tammie Tait, Wendy Bidstrup, Cheryl White,

**Noodle Salad 4 litres**
Cate Milne, Jenny (G) Noonan, Veronica Ryan, Heather Hogan, Rachel Lovett,

**Tossed Salad 4 litres**
Georgina Hogan, Rachel Owa, Michelle Lee, Rachel Colbert, Tracey Bennett, Noeline Hogan, Jackie Tierney, Angela Liston, Trish Lehmann,

**Coleslaw 4 litres**
Kim Driscoll, Leonie Naylor, Carly Sharp, Wendy Watts

**Own Choice Salad 4 litres**
Jenny (P) Noonan, Jenny Atkinson, Annette Bennett, Louise Lee, Julie Weir, Barb Smith, Augustina Garcia, Trudy Mathieson, Lindy Fraser,

**Beetroot 2x425g tin**
Katherine Southall, Keiko Nakamura, Donald Cooper, Greg Martin,

**Drought tolerant Plants, and Second Hand Book Stall** - Donations to the above would be greatly appreciated.

**Workers 5.30pm**
Rhonda Bell, Ros McClelland, Wendy Watts, Denita Donnan
The Birchip Quarter Horse Cup - Sunday 15th March 2009

Parents’ Club Roster

The following families are requested to provide an adult family member to work (help cook and serve food) for a two (2) hour period at the Birchip Race Track.

12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.
Trish Lehmann, Angela Liston, Simone Christie, Jenny Hogan, Simone Donnellon, Cathy Bales, Louise Lee, Helen Casey, Sharon Foot

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Kerry Walder Claire Cook, Jackie Tierney, Lyn Boyle, Sharon flowers, Heather Hogan, Bern O’Donnell

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Brenda Doran, Julie Lowry, Jenny Leanne Noonan, Patrice Rickard, Kelli-Ann Sheahan, Jacinta Connelly, Bernadette Smith

If you are unable to undertake your allotted time, please organize your own replacement however if unable to do this please contact Trish or Angela.
**Birchip Watchem Netball Club**

**Junior A & B and Senior A, B and C**

*First training and registration night* (note change of night for juniors)

Thursday March 12 at **6:00 p.m. sharp** at the courts.

(Push bikes would be handy if you live in town and can bring one along.)

*All current and new players welcome.*

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**Junior Cricket**

Waugh 103 defeated Chappell 87

Chappell
- Riley Doran 26 retired
- Luke Lovett 13
- Rowley Walsh 10

Waugh
- Jackson Sayle 3 wickets for 6

The Grand Final was played yesterday (Thursday) between Border and Chappell.

More information will be included in next week’s newsletter.

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**Birchip Tennis News**

**Pee Wee**

No tennis this weekend. Pee Wee tennis will be back on next Saturday. Reminder to parents to please pay $10.00 per child.

**North Central Lawn Tennis Association**

No tennis this weekend. Next weekend two Birchip teams play with the match commencing at 11.30 a.m. to allow players an early finish to prepare for St Patrick’s Night at the racecourse.

**Championship & Breakup**

Draw has been given out. Please arrange to play matches as soon as possible ready for grand finals to be played on Friday 20th March at 5:00 p.m. This will be followed by the breakup with the Cricket Club in the Leisure Centre. Tennis players a salad please and cricketers a sweet.

There will be a $5.00 charge to cover meat and extras and staff for kitchen.

**Ladies Tournaments**

Nullawil - Tuesday 17th March 2009 and Birchip - Tuesday 24th March 2009.

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**WANTED TO BUY**

1 copy of ‘Of Mice and Men’

Please send into the school office.

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**The 21st Century Brain...**

*by Karen Boyes*

Kids learn and think differently to you and I. Canadian Ian Jukes told Teachers at the recent Conference in New Zealand. He stated "if we were to take an electronic scan of our parents' brain and compare them to ours, we would see that we use slightly different neural pathways to process the same information than our parents. In the same way, if we were to take an electronic scan of our brains and compare them to those of our kids' brains, we would find that they use fundamentally different neural pathways to process the same information than we do."

This has significant impact on the way we teach and present information to our students.

In the past few years a new science, cognomics, has emerged. It is the digital analysis of the brain, meaning for the first time in history we can understand how the brain thinks and processes information at a molecular level.

Ian Jukes calls the children in your classroom, digital kids. They have been exposed to technology throughout they entire lives. This is one reason their brains work differently. Cognomics shows us that the traditional notion that you are born with a certain numbers of brain cells and that intelligence is fixed is incorrect. Current research reveals that the brain restructures with sustained stimulation - neuroplacidity. This is how we learned to read. Focusing several hours a day, every day causes the brain to restructure. The average University graduate has spent 10 000 hours playing video games, 20 000 hours watching TV and only 5000 hours reading and 11000 hours at school. With the technological age advancing rapidly, children's brains have restructured. It is second nature to multitask and they crave access to tools for networking.

According to Ian Jukes, Digital Kids can do their homework while talking on the phone, listening to music, downloading videos and simultaneously talk on three chat rooms - and they are still bored!
Jukes is quick to point out that this change has not just appeared overnight. It started with telephones, TV, videos and games, e-mail and surfing the web, cell phones, online chat services... He also mentioned the DSL generation - Digital as a Second Language. You know you are DSL if you have to print out an e-mail to read it, if you phone someone to tell them about a new web site, need to print out a document to edit it and don't understand the new techno language. This is the divide between teachers and students.

What implications does this hold for schools?
It is no longer effective to talk at students and the old adage
I hear I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand

has much more meaning and relevance for the new generation of students.

David Sousa, in his book How The Brain Learns, suggests that information is stored in the short term memory for 24 hours. During this time - if the information is to be remembered there must be a contention to link new knowledge to something already stored in the long term memory. It's called “Velcro Learning” For velcro to work their must be two parts. The same is true of memory and learning says Sousa. For knowledge to ‘stick’, students need to have experiences where they discover information and then synthesise that new knowledge with what is previously understood to construct their own understanding of the world.

Research from the National Training Laboratories in Maine, USA, reinforces this.

The average retention rate is
5% of the content of a lecture
10% of what we read
20% of content presented in an audio- visual style
50% of the content that includes interactive discussions
75% of content that involves practice by doing
90% of contents with teaching others or immediate use of the information

What this research tell us is that if you want understanding and retention from your students you need to encourage and facilitate interactive discussions, use and share practical applications of content and promote high level thinking skills.

Jukes affirms this by saying " the current curriculum regularly stresses content without providing a context. In doing so we don't equip our students with anything more than the ability to regurgitate meaningless facts."

Current statistics show that the students in your classroom will have 10-14 different careers in their lifetime. Gone is the time of a job for life. This generation needs more than ever learning to learn skills and habits of mind. As teachers we must give these student the skills they will need for the future which are different from the skills you and I learned at school.

According to Jukes, digital kids learn best when information is received quickly from multimedia sources. They parallel process, multitask and prefer to interact and network simultaneously. He states that students prefer to learn "just in time" rather than "just in case" (it's on the test.) Learners prefer to process in pictures, sound and video rather than in text and most importantly they learn best when the information is relevant, instantly useful and fun.

Teach your students for the future. It is your responsibility to give them the skills for the future and equip them for the 21st Century by teaching, alongside the regular curriculum, thinking skills, habits of mind, team skills and communication skills.

Make your lessons fun and interactive. Add more pictures, sound and videos into your presentations. Make the information relevant to your students lives by giving them real life experiences and applications or analogies to create the ‘stick’.

Philosopher Eric Hoffer wrote ” In times of radical change, the learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves perfectly equipped for a world that no longer exists."

References:
David Sousa: How the Brain Learns
Ian Jukes: Digital Kids. Learning in a Digital Landscape
Birchip Pool Movie Night

When: Friday 13th March
Where: Birchip Pool
Time: 6:00pm – 10:30pm

Fun and Games for all; music by DISCO Gold

Feature Screening: Finding Nemo

FREE entry
Free BBQ

Bring a deck chair

Contact Marc Cox – 0420867897
Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to $750 for primary students and $1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to $375 for each primary and $750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?
To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?
You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?
You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:
- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.
nullawil netball club

Wanted
Junior players
Under 15s & Under 17s
Training Thursday 6pm
Contact: Gail Smith 5493 5296

daily drop off and pick up
of students

Parents are requested to drop off and pick up students at the front of the school in the designated parking and collection points.

Please do not drive around behind the stadium and drop off and pick up.
Eight year 11 students have been attending weekly practices in preparation for the Presentation Ball. These students have taken a responsible risk to try something new and be part of something they know will put them under pressure.

Gradually their waltzing, remembering the steps and putting the steps together is improving. They have improved at striving for accuracy!!

Trainers Ken and Glenys Rickard and Connelly Barclay are trying to encourage the students to thinking interdependently. Team work is important and everyone must learn from each other.

While trying hard and concentrating are important trainings include lots of laughs and time for finding humour.

The Presentation Ball is on March 27th 2009. Birchip Public Hall