Forthcoming Events

March
Monday 17th
VCAL Debate - 6pm - 7pm
Tuesday 18th
Easter Parade in Gallery
Wednesday 19th
School Council
Secondary Northern Zone Swimming Sports
Thursday 20th
Casual Day for Royal Children’s Hospital
Last Day Term 1 - 2.30 finish

April
Monday 7th
Friday Day Term 2
Tuesday 8th
Physical Resources Meeting
Thursday 10th
Years 8,9,10 cultural Performance ‘Spin’
Thursday 17th
Summer Sports - Hopetoun
School Council
Friday 18th
Presentation Ball
Tuesday 22nd
Parent Teacher Evening - Prep→Year 12
Thursday 24th
MS Readathon visit for Primary students
Friday 25th
Anzac Day
Monday 28th → Grade 6 Maldon Camp
Thursday 1st May

May
Monday 5th → Years 10/11 Canberra Camp
Friday 9th → Year 9 Advance Camp
Tuesday 6th
Physical Resources Meeting
Friday 9th
Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
Tuesday 13th → National Assessment Program for Years 3, 5,
Thursday 15th
7 & 9 students
Thursday 15th
School Council
Tuesday 20th
Law Makers, Law Breakers Loddon Jail,
Castlemaine Excursion
Friday 23rd
Secondary Motivational Media ‘The power of everyone’

The updated school website!

You will find heaps of information available to students and parents.
Newsletters can be found each week on the website including archived issues from previous weeks.
There is also quite a deal of information to be found under the INFORMATION tab on the left hand side including:

- Bell Times
- School Uniform Policy
- Parent Communication Note
- 2008 Annual Implementation Plan
- 2008 Evacuation Map
- Music Students Permission Form
- OHS Policy
- Bullying Policy

More items will be made available on this page in the future.
The School Calendar for Semester 1 (Terms 1 & 2) is also available.
Please take the time to check out the new features of the school’s web site.
Make it your home page!
The school’s web address is: http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au

Congratulations Steven Reid

Congratulations to Steven for being a member of the premiership cricket team in the One-
day Premier League winning team. Steven played for the Essendon Cricket Club and took 3
for 26 during the event.
Congratulations to our winning staff bowls team

The Birchip Summer Social Bowls competition was won by the staff team ‘Chalk and Talk’ defeating the team of John Bales, Leigh Hogan and James Jess. Scores were level after the 7th end, but luckily the team picked up 7 shots putting the result beyond doubt. Final score in this game was 19-10. Congratulations to winning members including Kevin Delaney, Jarrod Tyler and Travis Knights. Special thanks to other staff members who played at various times during the season.

Uniting Church Donation

Many thanks to the Karyrie Uniting Church Parish for their generous donation of $200.00 to benefit children at our school. The money was provided to the Karyrie Uniting Church Parish by members of the Romsey Uniting Church Adult Fellowship.

VCAL Debate

Monday 17th March 2008 from 6.00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Recreation Room

“The Australian Government’s new law restricting passengers of P-plate drivers will benefit the community.”

See our VCAL students argue both sides of the question above. What do you think?

Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

SUCCESSFUL 2008 FETE

Despite incredibly hot conditions yesterday students, parents and friends supported very much the annual Birchip P-12 School fete. Many thanks to all who came and supported us again this year. Approximately $6,000 was realised which is similar to last year’s figure. It is gratifying to know that even in difficult financial times and continuing droughts our community is prepared to dig deep to ensure our school and its students are supported.

I spoke with Mrs Eileen Smith who gave me a run down on the success of the fete. She spoke of the amazing support our school receives from the Birchip community and the willingness of students, teachers and parents to assist to ensure a successful outcome.

Our fete committee headed by Mrs Eileen Smith and strongly supported by Mrs Trish Lehmann, Mrs Angela Liston, Mrs Merrilyn Kelly and Mrs Barb Smith need special mention for the amazing efforts input to ensure the success of our fete. The school community thanks these committee members most sincerely for their efforts. Eileen is an amazing person, - full of enthusiasm, totally organized and incredibly hard working. Thank you Eileen.

Activity Prize Winners:

- Lolly in a Jar (234) Lea Gould
- Mini Golf Tayla Connelly
- Bulls Eye Seamus Lowry
- Cricket Stumping Curtis Smith
- Colouring Competition Luana Baird Nikko Garcia

Raffle Winners:

- Quilt: Sophie Noonan
- Runner Up - Pizza Plates Judith Barclay
- Lolly Hamper: Doris Russell
- Flat screen TV: Val James
- Swag: Rodney White

The acting principal visits Tasmania

The principal of Warracknabeal Secondary College, Mr Tony Fowler, and I spent the past two days talking to final year graduates of the University of Tasmania at Launceston and Hobart. The aim of our visit was to encourage education graduates to consider our Wimmera & Southern Mallee schools. We spoke to many students during our two days and had the opportunity to make a presentation to all students on the opportunities and benefits of teaching within the Wimmera and Southern Mallee schools. It was interesting to note that we were competing with the education departments of Canberra, Western Australia, New South Wales and London who all have better pay structures than the Victorian system. We were encouraged by the questions directed to us and interest shown by students. It was disappointing to note that there was no other Victorian group encouraging students to consider Victoria as an option. Our hope is that Tasmanian students will be both encouraged to undertake a teaching round at our schools and then consider taking up a graduate position within one of our Wimmera and Southern Mallee schools. The contacts, now made, with the University of Tasmania will hopefully prove valuable in the future when recruiting quality teachers. There continues to be an incredible shortage of mathematics and science teachers not just in Victoria but throughout Australia and indeed the world.

Tassie Weather

Of course whilst the people of the Mallee have endured extreme temperatures, Tony and I have
enjoyed the pleasant Autumn sunshine of Launceston and Hobart. The weather was perfect and we even enjoyed a seafood meal last night along Fisherman’s Wharf. Of course, following this most delightful meal, I came back home to my hotel room to continue working, finish my eMails and write this article for the newsletter – seriously!!

Easter Parade and Performances
On Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} March, at 10.00 in the school gallery, P-6 students will present their annual hat parade and musical items. All members of the community are most welcome to attend this event. Please come and encourage our children and enjoy morning tea together.

VCE SAC next week
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC &amp; D</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HEAD LICE
Please be vigilant in checking at least once per week. Remember, when treated, a follow up treatment must occur seven days later, to completely eradicate them.

Following the recent success of the stage production “Shrek”, last year, Miss Johnson, has decided to enter our school, from years seven to eleven in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge. The Rock Eisteddfod is a drug and alcohol free competition with emphasis on choreography, dance and drama. We have entered into the RAW division, challenging participants to explore new and exciting ways of manipulating elements, such as soundtracks, costumes, hand-held props and lighting to complete their performance. Miss Johnson’s year 9/10 drama class are busily working to compose the storylines, song lists, costumes, lighting design and dance moves for the 4-6 minute production. Our topic is ‘Life in the Mallee’. So far, we have 35 performers including choreographers Emily Smith, Mikaela Christie and Karleigh Weir. The main production will take place at Vodafone Arena, Melbourne in August 2008.

For more information on the Rock Eisteddfod, please see Miss Johnson, or visit the website: http://www.rockchallenge.com.au

Casual Day
for Royal Children’s Hospital
Thursday 20th March
GOLD COIN DONATION
Also available on Thursday
Ice-Cream in a cone - .50c

ROCK EISTEDDFOD UPDATE

Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Kelly</td>
<td>List 5 Spelling and tables</td>
<td>19\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Spelling, finish St Patrick’s Day assignment</td>
<td>19\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Mr Delaney</td>
<td>Scale activities</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>20\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Differences Count</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>What’s Eating Gilbert Grape assignment</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Newspaper report</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Earring assignment</td>
<td>20\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Read P86-91, questions 3.1 on page 91</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Business Manag.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC due</td>
<td>19\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Finish ‘Mole’ simulation and application</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Barclay/Langley</td>
<td>Study for Maths Test</td>
<td>18\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Study for Language analysis and oral</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>SAC due</td>
<td>19\textsuperscript{th} Mar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maurita’s Swim School

Sunday 16\textsuperscript{th} March 2008

Due to the Birchip Cup - the swim classes are being held at an earlier time.

The senior class normally at 12.00 will be at 9.30am.

Intermediate class normally at 10.00 & 10.30 will be at 10.15am.

Aqua Aerobics normally at 1.00 will be at 11.00am.

There will be no baby classes.

As the pool is due to close on Easter Monday, this will be Maurita’s Last Class this season.

Birchip Watchem Hockey Club

Friday 14\textsuperscript{th} March 2008

Swim, fun run, BBQ & AGM

Meet at the Watchem pool at 6:00 p.m. run, ride, walk or drive to the home of Claire & Chris Cook for a BBQ tea followed by the AGM

TRUCK DRIVING TRAINING AND LICENSE TESTING

Tutor: Steve Walker
Date: 25\textsuperscript{th} March-28\textsuperscript{th} March
Cost: $110 hour for training and $185 test plus $23.50 payable to VicRoads
Please register your interest with the Birchip Business and Learning Centre 5492 2735

FOR SALE

Roosters - $5 each
Kelpie Coolie pups - $50.
Ring Emma 5399 0525

Birchip Makes it onto Television
MONDAY 17\textsuperscript{th} MARCH

ABC program – 4 Corners

This Monday ABC program 4 Corners will be about Birchip. The program will highlight Birchip’s reaction to climate change.