Forthcoming Events

April

Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} - School Resumes
Thursday 23\textsuperscript{rd} - School Council
Saturday 25\textsuperscript{th} - Anzac Day
Wednesday 29\textsuperscript{th} - Tutti Fruitti Healthy Eating Show

May

Monday 4\textsuperscript{th} - Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} - Year 9 Advance Camp - Swan Hill
Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} - Primary Cross Country - St Arnaud
Tuesday 12\textsuperscript{nd} - NAPLAN Testing for Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 students
Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} - Education Week
Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} - Physical Resources Meeting

June

Monday 1\textsuperscript{st} - Grade 6 Maldon Camp
Wednesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} - Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Monday 8\textsuperscript{th} - VCE exams & GAT exam
Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} - Physical Resources meeting
Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} - NAPLAN Testing for Year 10
Wednesday 30\textsuperscript{th} - Australian Science Exam
Friday 12\textsuperscript{th} - Pupil Free Day - report writing day
Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} - Primary Winter Sports - Birchip
Friday 26\textsuperscript{th} - Last day of second term - 2.30pm finish

July

Monday 13\textsuperscript{th} - First day of third term

For ten weeks of school for teachers and nine weeks for students, the first quarter of the school year is at an end. As usual, first term has been incredibly hectic with sports days, camps, new classes, school fete and the odd building submission to be prepared.

For VCE students it is only ten weeks before mid semester exams. Some teachers will be holding classes during the holidays to assist our students.

Mrs Merrilyn Kelly will return for the start of Term 2 after five weeks long service leave. We thank Mrs Kelli-Ann Sheahan for taking on the job of Grade Prep & One teacher during Mrs Kelly absence. We very much appreciate your extra efforts Kelli-Ann.

Second term commences on Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} April 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Classes over the holidays:

Year 12 Biology - revision session on Tuesday 7\textsuperscript{th} April, 9:00 – 3.30 p.m. (Miss Meehan)

Year 12 Maths Methods - Tuesday 7\textsuperscript{th} April, 9:00 – 12:00 noon (Mr Richmond)

Thank you to staff for their efforts during this busy term one. Our students have got on with the job of learning and being challenged to always improve. Thank you to parents for your willingness to assist the school in so many ways whether it be attending meetings, assisting with one of the many catering activities, attending working bees etc.,

I wish you all a happy and safe Easter.

Booklists

Booklists and levies sheets were posted out yesterday. Please pay these as soon as possible or make arrangements for payment with Mrs Coffey at the school office. Should parents be experiencing difficulty with the payment of these please contact Mr Richmond at the school.
Alpine School

Best wishes to Laura Lee, Jesse Smith, Ashlea Potter and Emily Smith who will be attending Alpine School at Dinner Plain in Term 2.

For their Community Learning Project (CLP) the students are planning to revamp the community fitness track bordering the school. The plan is to make the track safe for all community members to use.

VCAL DEBATE

To succeed in the workplace, students need to be confident and able to articulate their thoughts in a coherent manner. To develop these essential skills, Birchip P-12 School Year 11 VCAL students organised a debate which was open to the public.

The topic for debate, that ‘It is too much of an imposition to expect L-Plate drivers to document 120 hours of driving experience’, was an issue that was of definite interest to all students.

On the affirmative side was; Lee James, Simon White and James Totzenberger, while on the negative was Ian Fraser, Marshall Connelly and Nathan Witherow.

Students considered the fact that since the NSW Government introduced log books, the number of young people dying on the roads went from 79 in 1997 to 25 in 2005. They debated that there are too many details to be entered into the log books and that to expect young people to have driven about 12,000kms before they can drive is too much of an imposition. The students acknowledged that crash risk is the highest in the first year of driving and that young drivers account for one-quarter of driver fatalities.

Regardless of which team won, researching information for the debate encouraged students to think about safety on the road and how driving experience in all types of weather and conditions is necessary before they take to the wheel on their own.

The negative side of Ian, Marshall and Nathan won the debate and chief judge, Fiona Best from the Birchip Cropping Group, gave the six debaters pertinent hints on how to fine tune their performances.

Many thanks to Mrs Barb Smith for her continued enthusiasm with the VCAL class.

Parent Teacher Student Night

Thank you parents who attended the semester one Parent Teacher Student interviews last Tuesday 31st March 2009 to discuss their son’s and daughter’s progress. Thank you also to the teachers who willingly gave up their time to enable worthwhile discussion to take place to ensure student progress is maximized.

Parents who were unable to attend on Tuesday night and wish to meet with teachers please contact Mr Richmond at the school to arrange a meeting.

Farewell to Izumi

Thank you to Miss Izumi Ohuch working with us for Term 1. Hope she had a good time in Birchip. She will move to Montmorency Secondary College in Melbourne. Good Luck and Best Wishes Izumi and thank you very much for your enthusiasm and work with our children during your stay with us.
SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are expected to wear winter uniform during second and third terms. There will be a two (2) week changeover period from Monday 20th April 2009 until Friday 1st May 2009 where students may wear either summer or winter uniform – not a combination of both. On Monday 4th May all students are expected to be in full Winter uniform. The uniform policy can be found under the information tab on the school’s webpage http://www.birchip.vic.edu.au. I have also included the winter uniform list below for your convenience. I urge you to use the holiday period to organize your son’s and daughter’s school uniform in readiness for term 2.

P - 6 Winter Uniform

**Boys:**
- White polo shirt or gold skivvy
- Grey trousers or grey shorts or dark green track pants
- Dark green windcheater or fleecy top.
- Black or white socks
- Black shoes
- P6 students may wear sneakers

**Girls:**
- White polo shirt or gold skivvy
- Green tailored slacks or dark green track pants.
- Dark green windcheater or fleecy top.
- Plain white socks
- Brown or black shoes
- P6 students may wear sneakers

7 - 12 Winter Uniform

**Boys:**
- Navy jumper with collar and school logo
- White *tailored* shirt with *stiff collar*
- School tie
- Grey trousers or grey shorts
- Black socks
- Black shoes

**Girls:**
- Navy jumper with collar and school logo
- White *tailored* shirt with *stiff collar*
- School tie
- Green six-gore skirt or green *tailored* slacks
- Plain white socks
- Brown shoes

VCE Agriculture & Horticulture Unit 3

Recently Mr Gareth Webb sales manager at O’Connors Birchip spoke to the year 12 Agriculture and Horticulture class about new technologies in Agriculture.

Gareth spoke about auto steer and the advantages of the various systems and the cost savings each could produce for the farmer. Gareth then spoke about precision agriculture in the form of variable rate technologies for the delivery of fertiliser, seed and sprays.

Gareth took the time to introduce students to direct drilling and the reasons for different set ups and the way in which press wheels can help in water harvesting and improving plant emergence.

Last week Dr Michael Walsh spoke to the students about sprays and weeds. The school is certainly blessed to have experts in the community that are willing to give freely of their time to improve our students knowledge.
Easter Concert and Parade

Many parents, grandparents, senior citizens, kindergarten children and friends applauded the primary students who showcased their artistic endeavours yesterday morning. The Grade 6 students introduced each act and the gallery was resplendent in colourful paintings and art works that adorned the walls. Grade 5 and 6 paraded their totems to the audience which represented them and their varied interests. Grade 4 and 5 in their ‘Ready, Steady, Create’ program made elaborate flags that were embellished with sequins, sparkles, glitter and even a truck!

Grade 4 and 5 students used their imagination to create colourful beach bathing boxes while the Grade 3 made intricately decorated Egyptian masks and sang ‘Pharoah.’ The Grade 1 and 2 class used their creativity and decorated chef hats and energetically sang ‘Sing, Sing a Song’ and ‘Hoocha Cha.’ With their brightly coloured buses waving, Grade prep and 1 students sang ‘The Wheels on the Bus.’

Under the direction of Mrs Andrea Phelan, the older children sang ‘Better Than’ and ‘Imagine If.’

The morning was a great success and was capped off by a quiet cuppa with hot cross buns and lots of cake in the staff room. Many thanks to Mrs Janine Welton for organising the morning and to art teachers: Mrs Maureen Donnellon and Mrs Eleisha Heyden, for inspiring the students to produce such excellent work.
Year 9 Activity Program

The Mallee Sports Assembly in conjunction with the Birchip P-12 School have now completed the Year 9 youth program. These programs have addressed teenage issues and showcased alternative physical activity options. The students travelled to Bendigo on Wednesday April 1st 2009 for their final sessions. At the start of the day students were given a tour of the new Bendigo Bank building courtesy of Mr Brett Schofield, current manager of the Charlton Community Bank. Brett also arranged a magnificent lunch which all students thoroughly enjoyed at ‘The Green Olive’.

Activities during the day for ‘The teen queens’ included all girls having their nails done at the Australian Hair & Beauty College of Design. Some were done the French way and others with plenty of vibrant colours. In the afternoon they then had a hair wash, blow dry and some very interesting and attractive hairstyles. The boys of ‘Run for ur life’ had an action packed day that started off with a gym session at the Eaglehawk YMCA gym with two qualified fitness instructors. The boys used a variety of equipment which they all found useful. In the afternoon the boys went rock climbing at the Big ‘Y’ which tested out their trust of each other. Students had a lot of fun and even managed to progress to abseiling at the end of the session.

At the end of the day all students participated in a game of ten-pin bowling at Dragon City Lanes which saw much laughter and competition amongst students and teachers. The students would like to thank Brett Schofield and the Bendigo Bank, Eaglehawk YMCA, Australian Hair & Beauty College of Design, Big ‘Y’ and Dragon City Lanes for allowing them to use their facilities throughout the day. Thanks must also go to Mr Knights & Miss Meehan for attending the day and driving the bus. However the biggest thanks of all must go to Rhonda Allen from the Mallee Sports Assembly for her amazing coordination of not only this activities day in Bendigo but also for the activities throughout Term One.

Parents’ Club Birchip P12 School

The Parents Club’ would like to say thank you to parents and friends for all the help that was provided throughout Term 1. Special thanks to everyone who gave their time, energy and encouragement at the recent Quarter Horse Races, School Fete and Presentation Ball. A special thank you to Denita, our very own Dame Edna, for entertaining us at the School Fete.

Reminder: Parents Club will be holding the Mothers Day Stall on Friday 8th May 2009.

Good luck to all the Hockey, Netball and Football Teams for the 2009 Season and Happy Holiday to all.

Ros McCallum – Secretary Parents’ Club Birchip P12 School
Presentation Ball

A very successful Presentation Ball was conducted last Friday 27th March 2009. Our Year 11 Presentation Ball students looked amazing and performed their dances well. Our students were presented to Mrs Eileen Smith and Mr Andrew Sayle along with Mr & Mrs David Smith.

Many thanks to Ken & Glenys Rickard and Miss Connelly Barclay for the efforts in training our young people in the finer art of dancing. It was terrific to see the many smiles on our student’s faces as they performed for an enthusiastic crowd. The parents of the Presentation Set decorated the hall and set the scene for a wonderful evening. These parents were incredibly active and worked together as a focused team capably led by Kerry Barker, Diona Cooper & Wendy Watts. Thanks to the Parents’ Club for their efforts and offerings of delicious food. I would like to sincerely thank all the students and their families involved in the Presentation Ball for their support and assistance in preparing for the ball, during the ball and in cleaning up. Your attendance at trainings, meetings and working bees was appreciated and helped make the night a terrific occasion. I would also like to acknowledge Mrs Barb Smith for the extensive amount of time and effort she input to co-ordinate and assist the planning and staging of the Ball.

Word Quiz

Words for this week: which is the odd word out?

A vandal- noun  hyperactive- adjective
Pyromaniac        bubbly
Arsonist           slothful
Heifer            enthusiastic
Barbarian          impatient

Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!

Collections

Encourage children to build up collections if old buttons, shells, cards, plastic toys, etc. Counting, sorting, grouping and classifying collections is a valuable activity.

Wilkur Watchem Bus Travellers

A reminder that next term the Watchem Wilkur Bus will travel on the Clockwise Route. Information booklets were sent home this week.

Sewers Wanted

The BWFC request the assistance of any willing sewers to adorn our new football jumpers with VCFL and Worksafe logos. Thursday, April 9, from 6pm at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre. Please bring a sewing machine if possible.
The Beulah Community will be holding

‘A Back-to-Beulah’

on the Labour day weekend in March 2010

The committee are looking for some sort of logo depicting the Beulah area that could be used on all correspondence and souvenirs. A competition to design a logo will be held with entrants designing something they think would be suitable for the event. Please design on an A4 sheet of paper, words and picture/s appropriate for the event. A prize of a basket of treats valued at approx $50 - $60 will be awarded to the winner of the design chosen by the committee. Acknowledgement of the design will be added to all articles where the logo is displayed (as appropriate). For more information telephone 53954232.

Competition closes on Friday 24th April, 2009. Post or email entries to Jenni Turnbull to arrive no later than that date. Address: 5067 Birchip Rainbow Road Beulah 3395 eMail: jturnbull@bordernet.com.au

Under 13 Football

Training next week will be on Wednesday 8th April 2009 ONLY.

The following week training will revert to Tuesday 4th and Thursday 16th April 2009. Please remember that the first game in on Saturday 18 April 2009 at Wycheproof.

A roster on a green sheet of paper should have gone home on Wednesday 1st April 2009. Please seek this out and mark down your commitments for the year.

Jumpers and numbers for the Under 13 & Under 16 Football

Under 13 and 16 jumper numbers have been assigned. These need to be firmly fixed onto the jumpers prior to the first game. Under 16 players are receiving new jumpers compliments of the Birchip Watchem Football Club and the Fremantle Football Club. These will be distributed shortly. Under 13 players are to wear the current jumper please.

Russell Christie - President

Three Day School Holiday Kits’ Club

Three Day School Holiday Kits’ Club
Tuesday April 7th - Thursday April 9th
Birchip Uniting Church Hall
with John and Ros Patterson
9.30am - 12.00pm
Games, puppets, stories, songs, craft and snacks.
Everybody welcome

BirchipP-12 School Newsletter

STITCHUMS CRAFT GROUP

Sunday meeting
10.30am until 4.00pm

Meetings will be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Textiles room of the Birchip P-12 School.

Stitchums Craft Group days are:
April 12, May 10, June 14, July 14, August 9, September 13, October 11 and November 8.

Come for the day and bring lunch, or come for a couple of hours. All craft welcome, crochet, scrap booking, sewing, knitting.

Near New Football Boots for Sale

Asic Gel, red/black/white in colour, perfect condition (only 2 months of wear), size 9.5

Only $80 (new $180)
Contact Hugh 0439 014 197

Squash Competition

People interested in playing in a squash competition that will start the first week of term 2 on Wednesday nights are to give their names to either Mark Bowen or Eileen Smith.

There will be social hits on Wednesday nights at 6pm during the school holidays.

Birchip Auskick

Auskick will begin on Wednesday 29th April 2009 at the George Cartwright oval.

This year parents will have to register their children on the Auskick website at www.auskick.com.au

Go to the parent’s button and register here.

Children who have participated before can renew registrations here also. This needs to be done ASAP.

Parents who are willing to help out on Wednesdays after school should contact Andrew Lee on 0427 331 161 or Russell Christie on 54 922 488.

On Tuesday evening 21st April 2009 a parent volunteer is needed to attend an information session at Donald. The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. It is envisaged that it will go for less than 1 hour.

If you could attend please let Russell Christie or Andrew Lee know at the above contact numbers.

Auskick membership is $30.00 per child. You must register and pay online at www.auskick.com.au

Sunday School Easter Lessons

will be on Sunday 29th at 10.30am. Birchip Uniting Church.

Contact Annette Mengler Bennett 5085 4253
## Homework!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Sheahan</td>
<td>Revise sounds ‘s, m, r, f, l, t and numbers 1 - 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Sheahan</td>
<td>Numbers 1-30 and counting by 5 &amp; 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Taylor</td>
<td>Learn individual words, spelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Emonson/Weir</td>
<td>Reading daily, Learn times tables</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Week 2 spelling, Found essay</td>
<td>21st April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Murder Ink</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Where is Snabel? Text Study</td>
<td>21st April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Of Mice &amp; Men Text Study</td>
<td>20th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Deadly Unna - read up to chapter 22 and have all work up to date</td>
<td>20th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Lest we forget performers - learn your lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>General Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Gradient sheet</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>`Holiday homework sheet</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Zimbardo prison experiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Revise for Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Analysis, Conflict essay, Man For All Seasons notes</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Analysis, Conflict, Inheritance essay</td>
<td>21st April</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
<td>Miss Barclay</td>
<td>Practise SAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Studio Art</td>
<td>Miss Heyden</td>
<td>FOLIO</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Miss Johnson</td>
<td>Hopes and Fears readings and activities</td>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>Practice exam questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ag.</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Questions on Plant and animal diseases. Complete new technologies investigation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>3x tests. Complete any outstanding chapter questions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Homework Questions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Holiday Homework sheet</td>
<td>20th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Business Man.</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>All homework questions</td>
<td>20th April</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
What’s on during the holidays?

School and Kindergarten Holidays

Parents and carers sometimes find it difficult to decide on activities for their child over the holiday period. Below are some suggestions for holiday activities running in and around the city and around Victoria, from free events and exciting places to visit, to short day trips and week long holidays with the children.

Free

Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens

Check the website for an array of current exhibitions and see what’s happening in the hands-on children’s area. Phone 13 11 02 or visit http://museumvictoria.com.au/MelbourneMuseum/.

National Gallery of Victoria

Visit the National Gallery of Victoria for a wide range of events, including:

- Dressed to Rule: Imperial Robes of China running from 4–9 April (free)
- Top Arts: VCE 2008 exhibition running from 5–14 April (free)
- Screening of Playing Beatie Bow (PG) on 8 April (free) and on 16 April.


Australian Centre for the Moving Image

ACMI Kids in the Studio free drop-in workshop runs from 6–9 April and 14–17 April, 12.00 pm–4.00 pm. Children can take on the role of production designer, building worlds for their characters and setting their own scenes, learning about the visual language of film. Visit http://www.acmi.net.au/kids_in_the_studio_april2009.aspx for more information.

Royal Botanic Gardens

A lovely place to relax with a picnic lunch while the children run around on the grass or feed the ducks. Open every day. Phone 9252 2300 or visit http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/.

Not free but good value

Scienceworks and Melbourne Planetarium

Science shows, exhibits and hands-on craft activities. Entry is free for children, adults $6. Open from 10.00 am–4.00 pm every day. Phone 9392 4800.

Williamstown Ferry

Hop aboard a ferry at Berth 7, Southbank, for a terrific cruise down the Yarra, under Westgate Bridge, and across Hobsons Bay. Phone 9397 2255.

Eureka Tower

Visit Skydeck 88 for amazing views of Melbourne or (for an additional cost) take a look at The Edge – a glass cube projected 3 metres out from the building suspended 300 metres above the ground. Phone 9693 8888 or visit http://www.eurekaskydeck.com.au/index.asp.
Kew Ceramics and Mosaics
Check out the variety of craft and mosaic workshops for children including plate painting, ceramic painting, canvas painting, clay modelling and the family clay plays program. Open Monday–Friday, 10.00 am–4.00 pm, and Saturday, 9.00 am–1.00 pm. Call 9852 8082 or visit http://www.kewceramics.com.au/Kidz.aspx.

Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre

CERES Community Environment Park
The CERES 'Just Imagine' workshop offers children the opportunity to explore their world through creative expression and play. Runs every Saturday from 10.30 am–11.30 am until 4 April. Call 9387 2609 or visit http://www.ceres.org.au/farm/kidsworkshops.html.

Collingwood Children’s Farm
See calves, lambs, chickens and other loveable animals at the farm. Open daily from 9.00 am-5.00 pm in Abbotsford. Adults $8, children, $4, families $16. Call 9417 5806 or visit http://www.farm.org.au/.

Short day trips

Healesville Sanctuary
Healesville Sanctuary has a natural bushland setting where you can see Australian native animals roaming in their natural habitat. Contact 5957 2800.

Sovereign Hill, Ballarat
Hop on a Cobb & Co coach ride, take the excellent mine tour, see gold being poured, dress up in 1850s clothes and have your photo taken, pan for real gold in the creek, check out tents, shops and stables. Call 5337 1100 or visit http://www.sovereignhill.com.au/.

Puffing Billy
Take a picnic lunch as kiosks have limited food, and be sure to see the model railway just up from Lakeside station. Organisers have suggested that trains from the city through Ferntree Gully should be avoided due to fire damage, so driving might be the best option. Runs daily. Visit http://www.puffingbilly.com.au/ for timetables and ticketing information.

A couple of days to a week

The Grampians
There are plenty of scenic locations near main roads through the Grampians. Venus Baths and Silverband Falls are two of the more popular walks, but there are walks of varying lengths so take a picnic day pack and take your time – and get a map. Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Halls Gap will give an insight into the original inhabitants of the region. Call the Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre on 5356 4616.

Buchan Caves
Buchan is a tiny town north of Lakes Entrance, on Victoria’s east coast. The two ‘show caves’ here are open year round for guided tours, and there are other more adventurous caves too. The visitor information suggests avoiding the South Gippsland Highway where possible due to fire damage around the highway. For more information visit http://www.discovereastgippsland.com.au/BuchanCaves.asp.
Fort Nepean on the Mornington Peninsula
Soak up a bit of Victorian history, explore lengthy underground passageways, lookouts and gun emplacements, or just admire the scenery. The local visitor information centre suggests travelling via the Nepean Highway as there is some fire damage along the local freeway. Contact the Visitor Centre on 5984 4276 or visit http://www.visitvictoria.com/displayobject.cfm/objectid.000A62BB-20CB-1FCD-A19480C476A90000/.

Lakes Entrance
Hire paddle boats and other watercraft on Cunningham Arm waters, take a cruise on the lakes, visit the seashell museum or play mini-golf. The visitor information suggests avoiding the South Gippsland Highway where possible due to fire damage. Call 1800 637 060 for more information on things to do and how to get there.

Holiday Programs
Here are some suggestions for holiday programs that your child might enjoy.

DEECD Holiday Programs
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in partnership with YMCA Victoria is offering free holiday programs for children aged 5–16. The programs run from 8 am–6 pm every day (except public holidays). Children can participate in a variety of fantastic indoor and outdoor activities that combine learning, creativity and fun. Five holiday programs are running at the following locations:

- Alexandra Community Centre
- Scots Church Hall
- Flowerdale Primary School
- Kangaroo Ground Community Centre
- Mechanics Institute, Kinglake West.

To book a place or for more information, contact the YMCA directly on 9403 5000 or by email at holidayprograms@ymca.org.au

Stage Left Performing Arts School

Sugargum Farm
For our Survival English class our teacher wanted us to try and write with more description. To help us do this we were shown pictures from Black Saturday and we had to think about all of our senses. We had to consider what the subject of the picture could feel, hear, smell, taste and see and then use this as inspiration for writing our stories. This incorporated the Habit of Mind of ‘gathering data through all of our senses’. Below are some excerpts from some of the students’ writing.

**Tayla Connelly**

I hear my house crashing to the ground behind me with ease, like it was made from feathers. The devastation is audible from the massive inferno which blazes behind me. It jumps, clinging onto the scrub, leaves and branches which are the fires only mean of survival. As I lift my head from the dirt and remove the now black blanket, I see a sea of devastation, destruction and wonder were all the life went. It is though the night sky has invaded the ground. As I watch the fire blaze ahead, I realise it is all gone.

**Mikaela Christie**

I can hear the loud crunching of the roof collapsing into a lake of burning mulch about 5 houses away from mine. I snap back into a scary reality and quickly turn around; as I look back at my house I inhale a massive, throat drying mouthful of death-destructing smoke. I run over to the large red pump sitting next to my underground concrete tanks and turn on the tap. The rumble of the motor starts up but the sound of the motor is no match for the roaring sound of the fire speeding towards me. I quickly glance down the street, I can only see about 10 metres in front of me. I’m relying mostly on my ears to guide my way. The intense heat of the fire blast makes my skin feel stiff. Into the distance I can hear the yelping of a dog that has probably been stranded and left to fight for itself. A heart wrenching feeling descends into me stomach that I may be that animal, screaming for help but knowing no one can to save me. It makes me feel sick.

**Hugh O’Keefe**

The fire roared as it began to come closer. I was horrified and I was going into shock. I was struggling to cope with the devastation of what was occurring around me. My lungs were full to capacity, filled with smoke and burning fire. The sky was covered in smoke and I was struggling to see my sister Lily who was standing within meters. It was like hell on earth.

**Chantel Emonson**

She feels the heat; she hears the roar, the smashing of the windows and the screams of grief. She wishes she got out. She is running, her mind is racing, her heart’s on fire, she is still searching. She grabs the photo, a second frozen in time. The smiling faces, the crazy glow, birthday wishes echo in her ears. She holds the photo, her eyes viewing and taking her mind back to that time. Her eyes stiffen, that beautiful blue reflects off the glass frame. She sees the fire. It grows closer to her like a tiger on a hunt.

**Emily Noonan**

The fire roar as it began to come closer. I was horrified and I was going into shock. I was struggling to cope with the devastation of what was occurring around me. My lungs were full to capacity, filled with smoke and burning fire. The sky was covered in smoke and I was struggling to see my sister Lily who was standing within meters. It was like hell on earth. – Chantel Emonson