**Orthcoming Events**

**August**
- **Monday 17th** → Book Fair
- **Wednesday 28th**
- **Monday 24th**
  - Staff PD Literacy across the Curriculum - Joan Stewart - 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- **Tuesday 25th**
  - School Photographs - full winter uniform please
- **Thursday 27th**
  - Yr 7 Immunisations
- **Friday 28th**
  - Yr 11 Cunningham Dax excursion to Charlton
  - VCAL Driver Education - Charlton
  - Daffodil Day

**September**
- **Wednesday 2nd**
  - OAC Ministries
- **Thursday 3rd**
  - Fathers’ Day Stall
- **Friday 4th**
  - Primary Athletics Sports - Donald
  - VCE English seminar - Horsham
  - Year 9 & 10 Textiles excursion Melbourne
- **Monday 7th**
  - Parent Teacher Evening - 4-7pm
- **Tuesday 8th**
  - Secondary Interschool Athletics - Rainbow
  - Primary Performance - 'Tony Bones'
  - Physical Resources Meeting
- **Wednesday 9th**
  - Yr 9 & 10 VET Taster Day - Horsham
- **Thursday 17th**
  - School Council
- **Friday 18th**
  - Last Day Term 3 - 2.30pm finish

**October**
- **Monday 5th**
  - First Day Term 4
- **Tuesday 6th**
  - Physical Resources Meeting
- **Wednesday 7th**
  - Grade 3 & 4 Camp to Pental Island
- **Friday 9th**
- **Thursday 8th**
  - Parents’ Club Meeting at O’Donnell’s Tea Rooms
  - Northern Zone Athletics - Bendigo
- **Thursday 15th**
  - School Council
- **Monday 19th**
  - Yr 6-7 Transition Meeting 7pm
- **Thursday 22nd**
  - Yr 12 Valedictory Dinner
- **Friday 23rd**
  - Last Day Year 12 students
  - Birchip Hospital Flower Show
- **Monday 26th** → Year 12 Swat Vac
- **Thursday 29th**
- **Thursday 29th**
- **Friday 30th**

Next Friday 28th August 2009 is Daffodil Day. We are encouraging students, on this day, to wear some yellow and to donate a gold coin in an effort to raise funds in the fight against cancer. There is also a range of merchandise which can be purchased from the front office - bears ($5.00), enamel pins ($3.00), wristbands ($2.00) and pens ($1.00).

**Athletics Report**

Athletics field events were staged on Monday whilst the track events took place on Wednesday. Great competition was evident on both days of the athletics carnival. Windy and cold weather did not dampen the spirits of our students and I congratulate our students on the positive way they approached these sporting events with everyone trying to achieve personal bests. Mr Sayle will update Personal Bests in the near future.

The Parents’ Club and SRC did a magnificent job catering for these events. Thanks especially to Trish Lehmann and her band of parents along with Miss Connelly Barclay and Mrs Eileen Smith and their willing band of student helpers.

**Congratulations Fraser House on winning the House Athletics Sports. Fraser 1422 defeated Young 1316**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5/6 Girls</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Georgia Lee</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Claudia Lee</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dammy Owa</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Nikko Garcia</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jacob Gleeson</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Riley Sayle</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Marnie Lehmann</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sophie Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Hayley Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13 Boys</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dean Lovett</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jacob Christie</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ronald Turner</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Courtney Gleeson</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Stephanie McClelland</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Emma Hogan</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>David Casey</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Riley Doran</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jarryd Hogan</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Noonan</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Laura Lee</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Emily Smith</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Demi Donnellon</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ashlea Potter</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Brenten Delaney</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Curtis Smith</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jake Hogan</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Evelyn Reid</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Chantel Emonson</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Tayla Connelly</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tim Walder</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Luke Lovett</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Nick Bales</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Maddelyne Foott</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Laura Bales</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jamie Lovett</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Nathan Witherow</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ruben Vesikuru</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20 Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Alicia Emonson</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Stephanie Cooper</td>
<td>Y</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ashlee Donnan</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-20 Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Simon Bardell</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tyler Lehmann</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Alex Noonan</td>
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</table>

**RECORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 yr old Boys</th>
<th>60m Sprint</th>
<th>Bill Lee</th>
<th>9.7 secs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 yr old Girls</td>
<td>60m Sprint</td>
<td>Khiana Brooks</td>
<td>10.8 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 yr old Boys</td>
<td>100m Sprint</td>
<td>Joe O’Donnell</td>
<td>16.0 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 yr old Girls</td>
<td>100m Sprint</td>
<td>Courtney Gleeson</td>
<td>14.0 sec equal record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 yr old Boys</td>
<td>100m Sprint</td>
<td>Nathan Witherow</td>
<td>12.3 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 yr old Girls</td>
<td>100m Sprint</td>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
<td>13.6 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 yr old Girls</td>
<td>200m</td>
<td>Courtney Gleeson</td>
<td>29.8 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 yr old Girls</td>
<td>200m</td>
<td>Kate Watts</td>
<td>29.8 secs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5&amp;6 High Jump</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nikko Garcia</td>
<td>1.40m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5&amp;6 Long Jump</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nikko Garcia</td>
<td>3.96 equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 yrs Shot Put</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Walder</td>
<td>14.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many thanks to Mr Andrew Sayle and Mr Travis Knights for their excellent organization of the two days and to all staff and parents for their efforts with undertaking various jobs that need to be undertaken if such an event is to run smoothly.

The Team for the Mallee Secondary School (Interschool)
Athletic sports is currently being selected.

Students that came first and second automatically qualify for those events at these sports, however there is a limit of six individual events per student so we will need to call on many other students to participate and do their best to earn valuable points for the school.

There will be more information about competitors and transport details made available in the next few weeks.

Building progress!

**Library:**

The new ramp and railing is installed. The new automatic opening door will be installed on Monday. A new borrowing counter is being crafted and will be installed during the September holidays. New book shelves have been ordered.

The Library will be closed to all library users from Friday 18th September 2009 until Monday 5th October 2009. During this time the library will be painted, re-carpeted, new shelves installed and books put back onto shelves.

**Flexible learning space with ICT focus:**

The old mathematics rooms are gradually being transformed into a large rectangular learning space. An eastern verandah, locker storage facility and walled garden will also be features of this project.

**New primary section**

As mentioned last week, part of the primary section will be rebuilt as a permanent structure. The new section will be constructed between the library and the western end of the gallery. The current grade 1/2, grade 2/3, grade 4/5 and grade 5/6 relocatable buildings will be removed to make way for the new constructions. We are presently discussing set plans with architects.

Year 8 Technology

This week in year 8 Technology, Katelyn Bennett and Zoe Weir were busy in the Technology shed welding their project together.
Year 12 VCE Australian History 34

Students learn in a variety of ways and enacting events is one way of making history come alive. Year 12 Australian History students are studying Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War and each student within the class took on the persona of a member of particular interest groups at the time and gave a speech that justified their particular stance on the war.

Eugene Liston, took the part of an anti-war activist at a moratorium who thought the notion of the ‘domino theory’ was fanciful. Aaron Valentine was a ‘Save Our Sons’ activist who was definitely against conscription and vehemently opposed to his son going to war. Virginia Glen, acted as a parent who had served in the Second World War and saw it as her son’s duty to serve his time for his country, just as she and her father had done. As a professional soldier, Simon Bardell was keen to carry on his family’s military tradition by serving in Vietnam. Elsie Coffey epitomised many young people who were against the two years’ compulsory National Service as it had the potential to ruin their careers.

World Vision promote the 40 hour famine as a key fundraiser for their efforts in reducing world hunger and poverty every year.

Participants choose to give up food, furniture or technology for 40 hours in return for sponsorship. This experience not only raises money but also raises awareness of what life is like for people living in countries less fortunate than Australia.

This year 16 students have chosen to go without comfort, mod cons or food: Courtney Gleeson, Brylie Emonson, Stephanie McClelland, David Casey, Matthew Rickard, Kate Watts, Riley Doran, Emily Hogan, Laura Lee, Sophie Hogan, Demi Donnellon, Sarah Watts, Emily Smith, Bridgette Hogan, Emma Forrester and Claire Boyle.

Although the official famine is scheduled for this weekend we have elected to do our time mid-week so we can support each other at school. So, at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday 25th August 2009, the Birchip P-12 School participants will stop eating, turn off the computer/ipod/phone or sit on the floor.

We will celebrate the end of our 40 hour experience at lunchtime on Thursday 27th August.

You can support the cause by making a donation either directly to the students or on line (quote Receipt No: 29270674-4)

For more information visit www.40hourfamine.com
FREEZA Battle of the bands

Congratulations to James Totzenberger on his success at the FREEZA ‘Battle of the Bands’ competition. James performed an original song as part of an acoustic duo at the Boort Community Complex on Tuesday 18th August 2009. Twelve different solo and band performances took place during the event which saw talented musicians from across the region demonstrate their passion for music. James took home a well deserved third placing. This was a terrific effort considering the high quality of acts that performed on the day. The song performed by James can be found on the upcoming release of the Buloke Shire’s Kool Skools compilation. Many thanks to Mr Tyler for organizing this activity.

AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS PROGRAM

The After School Athletics program commenced on Tuesday this week. A great roll up of students enjoyed the beautiful outdoors and this program will continue until the end of term only on a Tuesday until 5.00pm.

Thank you to the few parents who assisted; your help and support was very much appreciated. To improve the efficiency of the program and ultimately to increase the participation of the students we require more parents or older students to help. This needs to commence from next week. Duties will involve measuring, raking and timing; relatively easy roles. Please contact Michelle Lee ASAP if you are able to help on 0427 922 758.

Fathers’ Day Stall

The Parents’ Club will be conducting a Fathers’ Day stall on Thursday 3rd September 2009. Gifts to the value of $5.00 will be available for purchase. All primary and secondary students will have the opportunity to purchase a gift should they wish to do so.

Head Lice

Head lice are appearing still.

Please check heads; carefully in sunlight if possible. If detected, as soon as they are treated, your child may attend school. Heads must be treated again in exactly seven days. Please advise the school if lice or nits (eggs) have been detected so that we are aware of the severity of the problem. Mrs Kelly is very happy to assist with any enquiries.
### Grade Five and Six Homework Questions – due Friday 28th August 2009

1) What fell on the Sahara Desert on February 18, 1979?
2) How many great pyramids are there at Giza?
3) Name the three big Bs of classical music.
4) What bird might end up in a squab pie?
5) Is basalt an igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic rock?
6) What organ produces insulin?
7) Who won eleven Australian women’s singles tennis titles?
8) Where does the Beatles’ long and winding road lead?
9) What’s the transparent tissue that covers the iris and pupil of an eye called?

### Answers to last week’s homework questions which were due Friday 21st August 2009

1. What creature’s name in English is a version of the Spanish cucaracha? **Cockroach**
2. Wilpena Pound is a part of which mountain range? **Flinders Ranges**
3. What are the chapter divisions called in The Magic Pudding? **Slices**
4. The condition seborrhea is more commonly called …… **Dandruff**
5. What animal is the source of most catgut? **Sheep**

### Book Fair

**Theme: Book Safari**

A Book Fair is coming to the Library. Our Book Fair partners are Landmark School Supplies and Scholastic with more than 250 titles on display from 17-28 August. There will be picture books, fiction books – both junior and adult, information books, activity books, special packs… and much much more. Continuing this year, when you buy a book you go into the draw to win daily prizes.

**Come in and browse!**

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 – 4:30*

*Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 – 7:30*

*Saturday 10:00 – 12:00*
Year 9 Advance

Yesterday the year nine advance class geld a ‘H’ for Homeless Day to raise money for St Vincent de Paul Birchip. The students sold hot dogs and Hawaiian pizzas. Students donated a coin to wear casual clothes for the day. The students raised approximately $225.00.

Thank you very much Year 9 students and Mr Knights for this initiative.
School Photographs – Tuesday 25th August 2009

Please make sure your son / daughter is in full winter uniform.
Master School Portraits will again take the school photographs. There are various packages available as shown below. If any families wish to have family photographs taken, please request an envelope from the school office.

* Every student must present their own envelope to Photographer on Photo Day, even if payment is included in brother or sister’s envelope.

* Please include correct money - No Change available on Photo Day.

* Please check that your Child’s Name is Spelt Correctly on Photo Envelope.

* Family Photos Available - Please collect your Family Envelope from the school office prior to photo day.

* Family Concession - Order 3 or More Premium, Value or Basic Packs, & Receive a Free Family Pack Free !!! - See Family Envelope for Details.

* Gift Pack & Individual Portrait Items can only be purchased in conjunction with group or portrait pack orders.
Primary Athletics Sports Schedule

The Interschool Primary Athletics Sports will be held at Donald on Friday 4th September 2009.

Our school is responsible for providing helpers to run the senior hurdles, junior hurdles and junior sprints. We urgently require helpers to assist. Please contact Greg Welton as soon as possible if you can help out.

Our students will continue their athletics sports practice straight after lunch at 1:45 p.m. until 2:05 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays until Thursday 3rd September 2009.

Junior Events (5, 6, 7 & 8 yrs): - Shot put, Long Jump, Hurdles, Discus, Vortex Throw and Sprint

Senior Events (9, 10, 11 & 12): - Shot Put, Long Jump, Hurdles, Discus, Vortex Throw, Sprint and Long Distance.

AN ECHIDNA VISITS

On Tuesday evening Mr Tyler found an echidna near the post office. Due to the traffic around, Mr Tyler decided to relocate the echidna to somewhere near the golf club dam. During Wednesday the echidna had moved to Richmond’s yard. Today our school got a surprise visit from the echidna! Initially many students raced out with teachers to look but despite some prompting from Cameron Flowers the echidna decided to stay put semi-buried beneath a bush. Cameron Flowers came back later when the children went back into class to find the echidna and show the students his find. Students were most eager to get up close to take a look. Many thanks to Cameron Flowers for his expertise with our native friend.
**Future Camps**
Grade 3/4 camp to Pental Island. 7 - 9th October. Approximate cost $80.
Grade 5 camp to Lake Cullulleraine. 9-12th November. Approximate cost $100.

**FOOTBALL & NETBALL FINALS**
Best of luck to the Nullawil seniors, U17 and U14 football teams and the A grade netball who all play in the Golden Rivers First Semi-final this weekend.

**Birchip Watchem Junior Football Club**
**Breakup and Vote Count**
Monday 14th September
Birchip Leisure Centre
Start at 6.30pm
$5.00 per head for meal.

**SACs next week**
- Food Technology
- Chemistry
  
**Computer Technician**
Mr Thomas Walker, the school’s computer technician will continue to visit Birchip weekly every Friday.
Thomas will work on school computers and peripherals from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. each Friday.
From 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thomas will be available to people within the Birchip community who wish to utilize his IT skills. Thomas will work from the Birchip P-12 School and charges $60.00 per hour.

**BIRCHIP BASKETBALL COMPETITION**
- Mid October - Christmas
- Mens and Womens competition
- Friday nights
- Names to Madde - 0427 981 216 or Brooke - 0407 844 645

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### 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practise time and money. Counting backward from any number between 20 &amp; 100</td>
<td>26th Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3 Class</td>
<td>Mrs Taylor</td>
<td>First Fleet project</td>
<td>28th Aug.</td>
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<td>5 Class</td>
<td>Mrs Emonson</td>
<td>Homework questions</td>
<td>26th Aug.</td>
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<td>Netbook project</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Reading and times tables</td>
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<td>5 Class</td>
<td>Mr Welton</td>
<td>Netbook project</td>
<td>26th Aug.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>General Knowledge questions</td>
<td>28th Aug.</td>
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<td>Literature Books</td>
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<td>7 English</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Caught in the Crowd essay, spelling</td>
<td>31st Aug.</td>
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<td>9 English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing task</td>
<td>25th Aug.</td>
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<td>9/10 Landcare</td>
<td>Mr Delaney</td>
<td>Complete map work and questions</td>
<td>25th Aug.</td>
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<td>10 English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>Writing task</td>
<td>25th Aug.</td>
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<td>Quetta - Part A</td>
<td>26th Aug.</td>
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<td>Part B</td>
<td>1st Aug.</td>
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<td>11 Economics</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Complete exchange rate assignment</td>
<td>24th Aug.</td>
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<td>Mrs Smith</td>
<td>Lake in the Woods work</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 English</td>
<td>Miss Hicks</td>
<td>General Die in Bed work</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Ag &amp; Hort</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Salinity assignment</td>
<td>28th Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Chemistry</td>
<td>Mr Christie</td>
<td>Chapter questions</td>
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<td>12 Biology</td>
<td>Miss Meehan</td>
<td>SAC preparation</td>
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<td>12 Accounting</td>
<td>Mr Knights</td>
<td>Ex 17.1, 17.2 a,b,c</td>
<td>24th Aug.</td>
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All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
Community members from Birchip & District are invited to the official launch of "My Blood’s Country: The spirit of Birchip".

Friday 28th August, 6-7.30pm Birchip Community Leisure Centre

Official launch at 7pm by John Tulloh
A direct descendant of one of Birchip's early pioneer families

Music by Kara Kara string quartet; hors d'oeuvres provided & drinks available at bar prices

Books available for sale on the night $49 per copy (includes GST)
Cash or Cheques made payable to BB & LC (no credit card facilities)
**HABITS OF MIND**

**Resume**
Margaret O'Keefe

**Full Name**
Margaret O'Keefe

**Current roles**
BCG – Manager of Current Events and Sponsorship

President – Birchip Racing Club Inc

Member – Birchip P-12 School Council,

**Education**
HSC: St Martins in the Pines, Ballarat

Certificate IV – Workplace Training and Assessment

**Employment History**
Self employed for 12 years managing own event management company, specialising in major children’s events. Margaret has performed a variety of roles since leaving school, including being a full time mum and has worked at BCG since April 2005.

**Interests**
Community events/activities, participating in/spectator at sport, cooking, entertaining, following her children’s interests, gardening, travel.

How has using the Habits of Mind contributed to your life pattern?
Margaret remembers being described as very creative but not artistic. Being creative, imaginative and innovative, she likes to think outside the square and look at things from a range of perspectives. One of Margaret’s proudest achievements was developing the Warrnambool International Children’s Festival ‘Fun 4 Kids’ from concept stage to an Australian Award winning event.

Margaret believes that communicating with clarity and precision has also been important to her home and work life. She feels it is important that all family members have a clear understanding of boundaries and of the consequences involved with not following expectations. Simple protocols such as greetings, showing respect and using manners are important principles to live by.

Can you recall a time when being good at one or more of the habits contributed to your life in a positive way?
Margaret did not hesitate to say it was her persistence that has lead to many positive outcomes. Not accepting no for an answer, looking at why no was the answer, understanding the parameters of a situation, approaching the problem in a different way. During the twelve years of running her own business Margaret knocked on doors, put herself at the forefront and kept following up to achieve a desired outcome. She remembers that getting the Children’s Festival up and running in Warrnambool in the middle of winter required a lot of persistence. More recently securing the Governor General to open the BCG Expo required plenty of follow up after an initial polite refusal. Thinking clearly, especially when under stress, is an excellent attribute if you can develop it.

What Habit of Mind resonates mostly with you?
Gathering data through all our senses – Margaret feels that electronic methods of communication make it more difficult to practice this skill. Meeting people face to face and understanding the importance of spending time with each other and being attuned to body language helps people to know and understand each other better. Other habits Margaret relates to are creating, imagining and innovating, taking responsible risks and remaining open to continuous learning.

Which Habit of Mind has had the greatest affect on you meeting life’s challengers?
Margaret noted that we all have amazing challenges in life however being able to find humour and apply past knowledge to new situations has helped her the most. Margaret often reflects backs and asks herself “How and what have I learnt from that experience?” She also acknowledges that as you get older you have more knowledge and experience available to draw on. Thinking flexibly, and taking the time to think, helps enormously with meeting life’s challenges.

Do you feel that you have become significantly better at any of the habits? How and why?
Margaret explained how her career change from being self employed to her current role at the BCG has resulted in her needing to make a strategic change in interpersonal skill style. She now needs to think interdependently. Instead of working alone she works with intellectual people with strong personalities who are team orientated. For the greater good of her work outcomes she must tap into all the resources available: she admits this has been quite a shift!

Are there any of the habits which you believe you are not good at? How has this impacted on your life pattern?
Margaret responded by confessing she didn’t think she was very good at managing impulsivity. She knows it is important to have time to think, reflect on who you are and assess how you respond to people around you. She has learnt to be a lot more candid and structured about what she wants for herself and to respect herself and her needs when planning life’s activities. Margaret often relies on the experience of successfully managing her impulsivity to achieve goals requiring plenty of will power.

Thank you Margaret.