Forthcoming Events

November
Tuesday 1st  Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Wednesday 2nd  Years 5&6 Kanga Cricket
               VET Orientation Day - Horsham for selected
               Years 9&10 students
Thursday 3rd  VCE English Examination
             Grades P, 1&2 extended stay and sleepover
Friday 4th  VCE Biology & Further Maths 1 exam
Monday 7th  VCE Further Maths 2 & Psychology Exams
Tuesday 8th  VCE Maths Methods 1 & H&HD Exams
             P-6 Cultural Performance
Wednesday 9th  VCE D&T, Maths Methods 2 & Aust. History Exams
              Year 7&8 Super 8s Cricket - Horsham
Thursday 10th  VCE Specialist Maths 1 Exam
               Year 7 Tutankhamun Exhibition - Melbourne
Friday 11th  VCE Ag & Hort, Specialist Maths 2 &
             Accounting Exams
Monday 14th  VCE Chemistry & Physical Education Exams
             Year 11 Ag&Hort students to BCG Expo site
Tuesday 15th  VCE Studio Arts & Physics Exams
Wednesday 16th  VCE Certificate II (Hospitality) Exam
                QuickSmart Celebration Dinner
Thursday 17th  VCE IT Software Development Exam
               Years 5&6 Kanga Cricket - Donald
Friday 18th  VCE Business Management Exam
Friday 18th → Year 9 ADVANCE - ‘Relay for Life’ - Ararat
Saturday 19th
Monday 21st  VCE Certificate II (Engineering) Exam
Monday 21st → Year 11 Examinations
Friday 25th
Tuesday 22nd  Summer Sport for Year 7→9
Monday 28th → Year 11 Planning Meetings
Friday 2nd Dec
Monday 28th → Year 9 & 10 Examinations
Friday 2nd Dec
Wednesday 30th  P6 Swimming programme commences

December
Thursday 1st  Japanese Trivia Day - Cohuna
Monday 5th  Grade 6 Celebration Dinner

Farewell and good luck! 2011 Year Twelve Students

Today we farewelled our year twelve students at a school assembly
prior to the class leaving and
commencing their final study for the
fast approaching examinations
which commence with English next
Thursday 3 November 2011.

Valedictory Dinner

As in previous years, last night’s
Valedictory Dinner continued the
same amazing theme. I think the
students’ speeches just get better and
better – they were grand productions
detailing the hard yards input, the
funny times had in class and at
school. Students were glowing in
their praise of parents and their
teachers and the contributions made
to their education. All who attended
were so incredibly proud of our
2011 Year 12 students. To complete
the evening a song written and sung
by Miss Rebecca Wright and
accompanied on the piano by Mr
Joshua Richmond was enjoyed by
all.
The meal, prepared by Trish
Lehmann and the Parents’ Club was
again exemplary. Thanks to the
many parents who donated and
prepared food and worked in the
kitchen. Thanks also to the eleven
students who professionally served
hors d’oeuvres and the meal; another
excellent job!

Many thanks to Mr Joshua
Richmond, Miss Rebecca Wright
and Year 12 students for their
organization and presentation of the evening.
The school community congratulates our year 12 students and wishes them all the very best for the forthcoming examinations and the future.
The year 12 class of 2011 and their parents.

2011 Birchip P-12 School – Year 12 Class

Left to right: Conor Hogan, Hayden Collins, Gerhard Egerer, Evelyn Reid, Emily Noonan, Mikaela Christie, Nicholas Bales, Tayla Connelly, Hugh O'Keefe, Chantel Emonson, Branden Atkinson
Our Year 12 Students Perform At School Assembly

Our year twelve valedictorians presented a spectacular display of song and dance for their last school assembly this morning. It was terrific to see some of our relatively quiet and focused students become extraverts for a time. The enjoyment on their faces and those of their families and the students and staff was wonderful.

Thank you and good luck to Mikaela, Tayla, Emily, Chantel, Evelyn, Hayden, Conor, Branden, Nicholas, Hugh and Gerhard.
PRIMARY REGIONAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 21 October 2011, nine of our primary students participated in the Regional Primary Athletic Championships held at Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat. The students who represented Birchip P-12 School were Khiana Brooks, Caitlin Bidstrup, Courtney Sayle, Olivia Rickard, Bill Lee, Jesse Kemp, Andrew Phelan and Joseph Reid. Our students performed extremely well on an athletic track that not many have experienced before.

Results:
Khiana Brooks  2\textsuperscript{nd} 10 yr discus  5\textsuperscript{th} 10 yr 200 metres
Andrew Phelan  2\textsuperscript{nd} 11 yr 100 metres  2\textsuperscript{nd} 11 yr 200 metres
Bill Lee  3rd 10 yr 200 metres
Khiana Brooks, Olivia Rickard, Courtney Sayle, Caitlin Bidstrup  3\textsuperscript{rd} 10 yr relay
Jesse Kemp, Andrew Phelan, Ben Milne, Joseph Reid 3\textsuperscript{rd} 11 yr relay

Both Khiana and Andrew now qualify for the next level with their 2\textsuperscript{nd} placing and will compete at Albert Park, Melbourne on Monday 7 November 2011. The school wishes Khiana and Andrew all the very best at State level.

Congratulations to all students on your success. Your behaviour was a credit to your parents and school. Thanks also to the parents for transporting the children as well as your providing fantastic support. It is great to hear the cheers on the sidelines.

Many thanks to Amanda Reid who provided this report and the accompanying photographs.
Meeting Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

Mikaela Christie and Nicholas Bales got the opportunity on Wednesday this week to meet Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh at a function at Victorian Government House. Mikaela was nominated by Community and Sports Victoria whilst Nicholas was nominated by the school to represent the Grampians Region of the Department of Education.

Mikaela and Nicholas write: ...

On Wednesday I had the honour of representing Community and Sports Victoria as young sports person of the year to meet Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh at a function at Victorian Government House. The function was held in the ballroom of government house. This was an extravagant room two metres longer than the ballroom in Buckingham Palace. At the function we were placed into specific groups with a group leader who was an honourable assistant to the governor. I was placed into a group with other sporting volunteers. The amazing work that many input with aboriginal children as well as other underprivileged children was very inspiring. The groups of roughly eight people were briefed about the curtsy to be done if the queen happened to address you. Not all individuals would get the experience to speak with Her Majesty or Your Royal Highness. However I was lucky enough to be greeted by Prince Philip. After the official greeting he proceeded to ask who I was representing and what sport I played. He then commented on my school logo asking what P-12 meant and where was Birchip? He was also curious about the number of children at the school. Overall the Prince was extremely nice and was genially interested in the activities. - Mikaela Christie

I also had the honour of attending. The Grampian’s Region selected three schools, Ararat, Redan and Birchip to represent their region. John McClure from the region led us into a majestic hall fit for a Queen. Our small school group accompanied by the Victorian apprentice of the year was positioned directly in front of the lectern. As the Queen arrived she began to mingle with various people and I was fortunate to be issued an invitation. She was an extremely graceful lady attempting to talk to as many guests as possible. Eventually she came back to the front and approached us. We were under strict instructions not to approach her. The Queen questioned me about my name and whereabouts was Birchip. Meeting someone so influential was a breathtaking experience. I found her very down to earth and very accepting of everyone. It was a privilege to be selected to represent the school and Grampians Region. - Nicholas Bales
Super 8s Cricket

The regional 9/10 super 8s cricket competition was held in Horsham on Wednesday 19th October 2011.

Birchip -12 School entered both a boys and a girls team.

Both teams did very well with the boys losing a close game to eventual winners, Marion College and finished mid-field, whilst the Girls easily won a playoff game to finish third for the day.

Better performers for the boys included Game 1: Riley Doran 30, Jacob Christie 30 and Sean Hogan 28, Riley Doran 2 wickets. Game 2: Riley Doran 28, Harrison Christie 27, Jacob Christie 35, Joe Boyle 35 and Matthew Chamberlin 2 wickets. Game 3: Sean Hogan 42 Riley Doran 28, Connor McGinnis 26, Harrison Christie 2 wickets and Riley Doran 2 wickets.

Highlights for the girls were Game 1: Darci Tierney’s and Hayley Hogan’s batting and the bowling efforts of Hayley Hogan, Molly Hogan and Jay Connelly. Game 2: Marnie Lehmann’s batting. Game 3: Laura Phelan scored 31 off one over whilst Darci Tierney and Hayley Hogan picked up valuable wickets. The play off for third was a great team effort with all girls batting, bowling and fielding well to produce a comfortable win. Many thanks to Mr Sayle and Miss McKenzie for coordinating the activity, coaching and driving the team to and from Horsham.

Well Done to all players

The Yr 7/8 super 8s competition will be held at Horsham on November 9th. Practise will be held next week.

Grade 6 → Year 7 Transition

Day 1

As one class leaves our school another enters. Yesterday our grade six students enjoyed being year 7s for a day. The class of twenty one enjoyed the various subjects, games and activities Miss McKenzie, Mr Richmond, Mr Tyler and Mrs Smith had organized.

Transition Day 2:  Thursday 3 November 2011
Transition Day 3:  Friday 4 November 2011
Transition Day 4:  Tuesday 6 December 2011

Maths Is Marvellous – You Can Count on it!

Allow children to read a variety of maps. Distance, location, direction and scale can be explored. Locate towns or sites of interest using grid references.

Student Attendance – end of year arrangements

The following attendance rules are stipulated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

All students are required to attend and fully participate in school activities throughout Term 4. This includes participation in elective programs.

Year 11 students are expected to be at school until Friday 25 November 2011 and then must attend compulsory course planning meetings during Mon 28 November 2011 – Fri 2 December 2011. Times for these meetings will be communicated by Mr Christie and Mrs Barb Smith.

Year 10 students are required to be at school until Friday 9 December 2011.

Year 10 students and parents are asked to note this date due to the error in last week’s newsletter.

Students up to and including Year 9 are required to attend school until the end of the school year on Thursday, 22 December 2011.

Reports to all students will be distributed on Thursday 21 December 2011.

Please contact Mr Richmond at the school should you wish further clarification of these dates.
France & Belgium – 2011

Living in the relative security and peacefulness of Birchip, it is sometimes difficult to imagine what many had to endure in past times. It is especially difficult to comprehend why so many Australians fought on the Western Front in the Great War from 1914-19 and to visualise the conditions our forefathers fought under.

To gain a real appreciation of the devastation that occurred in Europe during this time, six students; Zoe Turnbull, Jessamy Bennett, Emma Hogan, Maryanne Bell, Brylie Emonson and Stephanie Martin and their teachers Cameron Whelan and Eileen Smith travelled to France and Belgium to specifically study the World War 1 battlefields and French culture and in so doing they learned much about themselves and the country.

After a long flight to Paris, the group picked up a bus and were driven to Ypres in Belgium by their intrepid driver, Cameron Whelan. The students were amazed at the number of tiny villages and very prominent Catholic churches whose spires rose majestically into the sky signifying the pride villagers have for their town.

Bullecourt on the Somme was of special interest to the group as between April and May 1917, over 10,000 members of the Australian Imperial Forces were killed and wounded. It was a poignant experience to walk through the fields where so many had died over such small tracts of land and to find large pieces of shrapnel, bullets, live grenades and barbed wire. Farming can be quite a hazardous business as only eight years ago a farmer was fatally injured by an explosion. When farmers find undetonated ammunition, they leave it in a conspicuous place for the army to pick up and defuse. Interestingly, last year the army defused some 220 tonnes of explosives from the First World War.

Students visited the site of the Unknown Soldier who is now buried in Canberra and visited the Poziers’ Wind Mill site where on July 1st 1916 60,000 men lost their lives. The fighting was so intense that the landscape was little more than a featureless landscape of shell holes and trenches and the now picturesque village was obliterated from the face of the country. Incidentally, some of the soil from the Wind Mill site was taken to Canberra and placed on the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

Bullecourt on the Somme was of special interest to the group as between April and May 1917, over 10,000 members of the Australian Imperial Forces were killed and wounded. It was a poignant experience to walk through the fields where so many had died over such small tracts of land and to find large pieces of shrapnel, bullets, live grenades and barbed wire. Farming can be quite a hazardous business as only eight years ago a farmer was fatally injured by an explosion. When farmers find undetonated ammunition, they leave it in a conspicuous place for the army to pick up and defuse. Interestingly, last year the army defused some 220 tonnes of explosives from the First World War.

One of the highlights of the trip was by chance coming across an archaeological dig that was excavating tunnels that the Allies had dug under the German lines near the famous Lochnagar Mine. At times the tunnels were as deep as one hundred feet. We were indeed fortunate to be given a guided tour around the mines before the site was even open to the general public. It was amazing to see the sheer destruction of the landscape that these huge detonations had caused. Lochnagar is now a huge pit, storeys deep where the Allies detonated over 27,000 kilograms of explosives to obliterate German trenches. The force of the explosion was so great that the reverberations were felt in Dublin, Ireland.

To those who knew what they were looking for, it became quite easy to spot hidden German bunkers in the landscape and students laughed when one guide showed them an Australian bunker that did not have the finesse of the very elaborate German bunkers. To most it was amazing that the Germans lost the war as they always had control of high land and could see clearly what the Allies were plotting.

The numerous visits to cemeteries were sobering as thousands of tombstones stood in lines with the lonely words ‘Known only to God’ inscribed on them. Many inscriptions bore the names of young men aged eighteen and nineteen while others showed young fathers sadly missed by their wives and children. A few headstones told the tale of young boys, too young to join the forces who had falsified their age and had joined up under a different name only to be sadly cut down. Perhaps one of the saddest cemeteries was at Langarmark where thousands of Germany’s young men are buried for their sacrifices to war. Langarmark is striking because it is shrouded in oak trees and there is a definite lack of attention to the graves that is so evident in Commonwealth graves.

On a cold Saturday night in Ypres, a thousand people crowded into the Menin Gate memorial to pay their respects to those who had fallen but had no known graves. Three buglers played the ‘Last Post’ and an amazing choir from Belgium sang their rendition of ‘Flanders Fields.’ The short service was very moving and there were no adequate words to explain the girls’ thoughts after their presentation.

The group couldn’t help but notice the way we were welcomed wherever we went for the way our soldiers had helped save their country.
Tennis Coaching with Peter Bewley commencing tonight Friday 28 October at 5:30 p.m. for six weeks
Coaching cost is $50.00 per person for six weeks of coaching & payment to be given to either Louise Lee or Julie Coffey at school. Cheques should be made payable to “Birchip Tennis Club”.
Please remember to bring a hat, sun screen & water to your coaching session.

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Penny O’Donnell, Olivia Rickard, Malachy Lowry, Will Sheahan, Dillon Connelly
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Darcy Sheahan, Bill Lee, Brodie Connelly
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Joe O’Donnell, Jesse Kemp, Jack Lee, Seamus Lowry
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Claudia Lee, Georgia Lee, Ashlee Tierney, Nicole Clark, Tori Hogan

Junior Cricket
Junior cricket starts tomorrow with an indoor Game in the stadium
Watson versus Clarke Umpire Andrew Sayle
Start Time 8:45 a.m.
Teams, draws, rules and umpires roster was distributed during the week.
Due to Birchip P-12 School oval being unavailable until after school resumes in 2012 some games will be played at the George Cartwright Oval on Saturday mornings.
These will be full games (both sides bat) on the one morning.
Andrew Sayle Junior Cricket coordinator

AUSTRALIA versus NEW ZEALAND NETBALL
HISENSE ARENA – MELBOURNE
Sunday 30th October 2011
• A bus is leaving the Birchip netball courts at 8:00 a.m. We will be stopping at Calder Park for lunch on the way down.
• $20.00 for Bus trip down to Melbourne.
• Wear your BWNC tops, or purple if you don't have one!
• Any questions, please contact Heather Hogan on 0408 504 583

Basketball
Monday nights – Men
Wednesday – Women
Friday - Junior
Starting in the week beginning 24 October 2011 for 5 weeks

Names and payment for classes must be given to Simone Christie at the Birchip Business & Learning Centre prior to the commencement of each class.

Yoga
Monday 17 October – Monday 19 December 2011
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
$60.00

Painting Class with Bev Neil
Sunday 6 November from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(BYO lunch)
Birchip P-12 School Art room
$25 (includes canvas boards, brush & paints)

Dance for fun classes
Monday 17 October – Monday 5 December
Birchip Public Hall
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Preschool
3:30p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Junior
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Senior
$40.00

Coming soon
More cooking classes, water exercise classes, swimming classes …………. 
Dear Ladies,

Many thanks for the excellent presentation of food and the great waitresses & workers at the Cropping Group Expo dinner. The letter of appreciation & thanks from Margaret O’Keefe from the Birchip Cropping Group was full of praise for how well organized the catering was on this occasion.

The next function is Carly Sharp’s wedding at **Tchum Lake on Saturday 5 November 2011**. We plan to prepare salads & cook the meat at the Birchip P-12 School and hence the different venues on the roster.

**Could staff working at the Lake please wear Black & White.**

Hoping you are once again all willing to assist and if unable to please arrange a swap, or failing this please contact Louise Lee on 54 922 576 or Frances Lee on 54 922 358.

**Deliver food to school between 1.30pm - 3pm**

**Cold Savouries – 3 Dozen Each**
- Chicken Balls in Chilli Sauce - M Lee, K Walder, S Flowers
- Rice Paper Rolls – B Smith, C Cook, S Christie, S Kemp
- Mushroom en Coute – S Donnellon, R Colbert, D Thompson
- Club Sandwiches – E McCallum, B O’Donnell, C McKenzie, J Coffey
- Bocconcini Tomato Skewers – S Chamberlain, B Doran
- Salmon Pikelets – B Horton, L Lee, N Hogan, F Sayle
- Bruschetta - B Ryan, C Brown, D Ferrier, C Bales, R Wright
- Cucumber & Salmon Bites – J Hogan, F Best

**Cold Savouries Of Own Choice** – N Egerer, T Garcia, E Watson, L Ferrier, P Rickard, G Rickard, E Bennett, A Bennett.

**Four Litres of Salad**
- Potato – D Reid, B Horton
- Noodle – L Cook, D Botheras
- Own Choice – P Juergens, H Barber, K Bales, S Connelly, R Bell, R Ferrier, M Rickard, J Noonan, J Rymer, R Owa, R Jones, E Reid.
- Snow pea & Tomato – F Lee
- Pumpkin, Feta & Pinenuts – L Boyle

**To Work At School – 1.30pm to 3.30pm**
- N Hogan, H Barber, Val Lee, P Juergens, D Reid, M Nicholls, E McCallum, N Mclean, L Cook, G Rickard, B Horton, K Bales, J Smith.

**To Work At School – 5.00pm to 7.00pm**
- B Smith, B Ryan, L Boyle, S Chamberlain, D Ferrier, K Walsh.

**To Work At Lake – 5.00pm to 9.00pm**

---

### 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>7</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mr Sayle</td>
<td>Basketball Questions</td>
<td>4th Nov.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Mr Birch</td>
<td>Rising Tension/Climax</td>
<td>31st Oct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Mr Birch</td>
<td>Revolution Assignment</td>
<td>2nd Nov.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!**

---

### SACs Next Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychology SAC essay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Habits of Mind

GATHERING DATA THROUGH ALL SENSES
When we first stepped off the plane and into France it was a whole new environment. We were Continuously Gathering Data through All Senses, especially when it came to trying the new cuisines, meeting different people, seeing all the beautiful buildings and monuments and even when being driven around on the opposite side of the road.

RESPONDING WITH WONDERMENT AND AWE
When we went to the Primary School in Fromelles they responded with wonderment and Awe when we taught them about Australia and Aussie Rules Football.

REMAINING OPEN TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING
On going to the French and Belgium battlefields I was aware that there was a lot I didn’t know about the war. I was always aware of what was being said to me and absorbed the information as best I could.

THINKING FLEXIBLY
To overcome the language barrier, we had to think flexibly finding new ways to communicate, speaking a mixture of English and French, hand signs, pointing and if necessary picture drawing.