Forthcoming Events

December
Monday 7th  Grade 6 Celebration Dinner
Tuesday 8th  One up Day:  Kinder → Prep, Grade 6 → Year 7, Year 11 → Year 12
               Physical Resources Meeting
               Madagascar - full dress rehearsal
Thursday 10th  School Council Meeting
               Madagascar - matinee performance
Friday 11th  Primary Swimming Program Finishes
               Madagascar - evening performance
Monday 14th  VCE results published
Tuesday 15th  Presentation Night
Thursday 17th  Student reports distributed from 3:15pm
Friday 18th  Last official day of school for 2009
               School Finished at 1:15pm

January
Wednesday 27th  → Staff return for 3 day professional development
Friday 29th

February
Monday 1st  Students return
Thursday 4th  Prep students commence school

Last day of the school year – Friday 18th December 2009

On the Friday (DEECD official last day), staff will be involved in rearranging rooms and moving furniture and equipment in readiness for the new school year. Students who attend will either be expected to assist with this task or will be involved in supervised alternative educational activities, not in their normal timetabled classes.

School hours on the final day of school will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Buses will run at the normal time in the morning however home bound buses will depart the school at 1:15 p.m. This is approximately 2¼ hours prior to the normal scheduled times. Bus travelling families are asked to ensure their children are collected from their bus stops at this earlier time.

Madagascar Matinee – Thursday 10th December 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

As the matinee performance will commence at 1:30 p.m. in the Birchip Public Hall, the school office will be closed from 1:30 p.m. Bus students will be collected from the front of the hall at the conclusion of the performance.

Last day for year ten students

Best wishes to our year ten students as they finish their examinations today prior to heading off for their summer break.

The last of the year 9 & 10 examinations was held today.

Student reports –
Thursday 17th December 2009

Student reports will be distributed to all students Prep – 11 from 3:15 p.m. on Thursday 17th December 2009. School magazines will also be distributed to students who have ordered and paid for them.

Students will be expected to clean lockers out on this day and take all work and equipment home on this day.
One up day — Tuesday 8th December 2009

The following activities will occur next Tuesday 8th December 2009.

Kindergarten children Visit school from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Years prep – grade five NORMAL SCHOOL DAY – many children involved with Madagascar rehearsals
Grade six students Orientation day within the secondary section – Transition Day #4
Year 7 – 10 students Not required at school unless year ten students are completing a VCE Unit 3/4 in 2009
Year 11 students One-up day – see timetable below

### Madagascar

**Tuesday 8th December 2009**
Full dress rehearsal (all Madagascar participants will be involved from 9am until approx 11:30 a.m.)

**Thursday 10th December 2009**
Matinee at 1:30 p.m. (All Cast will move to the hall at the end of period 3)
NO afternoon classes

**Friday 11th December 2009**
Evening performance at 8:00 p.m.
Cast to the hall at 6:00 p.m.
Tickets are selling fast for both Thursday’s Matinee and the Friday evening performance.
Students - $2.00 and Adults - $5.00

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### Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2010 Year 7 students</th>
<th>2010 Year 12 students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Warning Bell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Home Group # 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:05 a.m.</td>
<td>Period One</td>
<td>Mathematics CB</td>
<td>Economics KD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Business Management TK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese KN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:47 a.m.</td>
<td>Period Two</td>
<td>Physical Education JT</td>
<td>Mathematical Methods JR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:29 a.m.</td>
<td>Period Three</td>
<td>Science JT</td>
<td>Chemistry RC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VCAL BS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:11 a.m.</td>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>Geography KD</td>
<td>Physical Education AS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:31 a.m.</td>
<td>Period Four</td>
<td></td>
<td>Further Mathematics CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physics GM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:13 p.m.</td>
<td>Period Five</td>
<td>English ES</td>
<td>Studio Arts EH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:55 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:52 p.m.</td>
<td>Home Group #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:57 p.m.</td>
<td>Period Six</td>
<td>LOTE - Japanese KN</td>
<td>Psychology EJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Materials &amp; Technology CW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Accounting TK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:39 p.m.</td>
<td>Period Seven</td>
<td>Tech Block CW BS SM</td>
<td>English ES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03:21 p.m.</td>
<td>End of school day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Miss Rosie Howard graduates as a Reading Recovery tutor**

For a variety of reasons, by the end of a year in Prep, some children need extra assistance to become efficient and effective readers. This is no reflection on the intelligence of the child or the quality of the teaching. It’s a simple fact that some children don’t ‘pick up’ all the things they need to know in a group setting. Fortunately there is a program, Reading Recovery, designed to give those kids some one-to-one, individual, targeted help with reading and writing during their second year at school.

This year Miss Howard completed training as a Reading Recovery teacher. There is so much to learn that Rosie thought the task almost impossible initially. Add to that the burden of travelling to Horsham so often (three full days and 18 half days throughout the year) and it was quite a daunting prospect.

Happily, all of the students with whom Miss Howard worked this year achieved success by the end of their series of lessons. They all reached, and many exceeded, the minimum standard of reading level 15 texts at the rate of 90% accuracy or higher. Well done to all of those boys and girls.

Miss Howard and other teachers from the Wimmera all successfully completed the course, and last Tuesday graduated as fully fledged Reading Recovery teachers. Certificates were presented by the Regional Manager for Student Learning, John McClure, in a short ceremony held in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. The group were also given Reading Recovery mugs by their tutor, Cilla Leonard.

Congratulations Miss Howard! Thank you for taking on the challenge and ultimately assisting our children in one of the most important skills in life – reading.

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**Stoves for sale**

Due to the Home-Economics Room refurbishment we have 2 x gas upright stoves for sale. One is $200.00 and the other $100.00. If interested, please contact John Richmond on 0417 106 033.

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**Lions Youth of the Year**

Tuesday 8th December 2009 at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre.

Kate Watts, Emily Hogan and Darcie Cooper from year 11 are the three entrants in this year’s Lions’ Youth of the Year. Kate is speaking on how technology has impacted upon our lives, Darcie is speaking about the pressures on the Australian health system and Emily will be discussing that Sex Education should be taught in school.

It takes much courage to speak in public and the community is urged to come along and hear the girls speak.

There will be a dinner before the speeches and if anyone in the community wants to come for the meal, cooked by the netball club ($25.00), they should let Eileen Smith know before Monday. Please contact Eileen at the school. However, if you want to just come for the speeches, that is fine too. The speeches will commence at 8:00 p.m.

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**P - 6 Swimming Program**

The program will continue to Friday 11th December with the following schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th Dec</td>
<td>No Swimming</td>
<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>No Swimming</td>
<td>11th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Key Water Safety Messages
- Never Swim Alone
- Never Turn Your Back
- Look Before You Leap
**Building Progress:**

The latest updates are the changes to what is known as Room 9, the western brick building. The room has had the ceiling lowered, the walls plastered and it has been painted in lovely duck-egg blue. The Trade Training Centre has external walls. The electrical connections are the next stage.

**France / Belgium Excursion**

Students and parents who indicated their interest to participate in the France & Belgium tour in 2010 should note that an information evening will be held in the 2010 new school year.

**Maths is Marvellous – You can count on it!**

**Dominoes & Dice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spread out all 28 double six dominoes face up and take out any dominoes with blanks. Roll two 1 – 6 dice and see if you can find the matching domino. What do the two numbers add up to?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Answers to last week’s homework questions which were due Friday 4th December 2009**

1. What is a soothsayer? Someone who foretells the future.
2. Geographically, what is a burn? Small stream.
3. In golfing terms what did a stymie refer to? Blocking hole from opponent’s ball.
4. According to custom, how old is a Chinese baby on the day it is born? One year old.
7. Agoraphobia is the abnormal fear of what? Open spaces.
8. In what month were you born if your birthstone is a pearl and your flower is a rose? June.
9. The four suits of playing cards are said to represent different social positions and occupations. What are they? Clergy, nobility, merchants and peasants.
10. What is a leveret? Young hare.

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**Letter from Penny Wong**

Year 7 students have been studying the controversial topic of global warming and climate change. Molly Hogan in her studies researched desalination and became so concerned about the effects desalination plants can have on the environment that she was compelled to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP. In her letter to Mr Garrett Molly wrote, ‘I understand that the government cannot please every single person and is trying their hardest to resolve as many environmental problems as possible while trying to secure a future for many Australians to come. But do you really think putting desalination plants around the country is going to stop global warming, let alone help the environment? If anything it may speed it up.

Global warming is not the only problem desalination creates. Excess salt is pumped back into the ocean, damaging wildlife and plants around these areas; maybe people too could be affected. There is also the mass of land the desalination plant takes up which causes problems. People are protesting in towns where desalination plants are to go. You can see people are not happy with your decisions and yet you are going ahead with it anyway.’

The Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong responded in a two page letter to Molly. It was obvious that the Minister knew what was happening in the area as she talked about the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline in great detail. To allay Molly’s concerns, the Minister wrote, ‘The National Urban Water and Desalination Plan is a key component of ‘Water for the Future.’ Under this program, funding is available to establish new sources of water supply through the use of desalination; water recycling and stormwater harvesting. The Australian Government will only consider contributing funding to desalination plants that use renewable energy or fully offset the carbon emissions from the operation of the plants. The Victorian Government has advised that renewable energy will be purchased to offset the energy used by the Victorian Desalination Plant.’

It was pleasing to note that our politicians take the time to read and respond to letters.
**Preps Release their Frogs into the wild**

Preps were extremely excited as they trekked to the lagoon area at the back of the school to release their tank of frogs. For weeks students have wondered and asked interesting questions as their tadpoles developed into fully formed, jumping frogs.

**Books for Sale**

Booklists have gone out today to all secondary and Year 6 students. We are encouraging students to re-sell their books to reduce costs for families. A number of students have already brought in texts to sell and these are listed below.

**All secondary students:**
- Roget’s Thesaurus- $10, $15
- Oxford Australian Colour dictionary- $10

**Year 11 students:**
- English: Macbeth- $10, Inheritance- $12
- Inheritance study guide-$5
- Year 11 Food and Technology- Cookery the Australian Way-$25, Food &Tech units 1 &2-$30
- Design and Technology –Textiles and Wood- Design and Technology VCE Units 1-4-$30
- Biology-One - brand new Heinmann Biology 1 (4th edition- $68)
- Physics- Jacaranda Physics 1 - $50
- Psychology- Nelson - $15
- Accounting- Cambridge Accounting units 1&2- $30
- Mathematical Methods- Cambridge Essential
- General Mathematics- Cambridge Essential General Maths- $25
- Mathematical Methods- Cambridge Essential Maths Methods- $30
- Chemistry- Heinemann Units 1 & 2 Chemistry-$20, $40

**Year 12 students:**
- Further Mathematics: Essential Further Maths &CD- $50
- Chemistry: Heinmann Chemistry 2 Text &CD- $35, $40 and Student Workbook- $20
- Food and Technology- Cookery the Australian Way-$25, Food &Tech units 3 &4-$30
- Design and Technology –Textiles and Wood- Design and Technology VCE Units 1-4-$30
- Physics- Jacaranda Physics 2 - $50
- English- The Secret River- $12
- Psychology notes book 3 & 4 - $5 a book

If you wish to sell any texts please bring them to the office with your name and purchase price on each text.

The Victorian Government recently released a strategy that will enhance transparency and accountability for school improvement in Victorian schools.

The Minister for Education, in her foreword to the strategy, writes:

“The Victorian Government’s transparency strategy is based on a firm belief that enhancing transparency helps the community hold schools, the system and Government accountable for improving student outcomes. We want everyone to be able to access the information they need and work together to achieve excellence … and foster a shared understanding between parents and carers, schools, the school system and Government of how every school is working and improving.”

All schools including the Birchip P-12 School have a new Government School Performance Summary, which is available online on the Victorian State Register, at http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/sreg. This performance summary gives you an overview of how our school is performing, and how our performance compares to all other Victorian government schools. This information covers our performance in the areas of student learning, engagement and wellbeing, and pathways and transitions.

Alongside the raw data, which has been available to you in our Annual Report, there is a new measure that tells us whether our school, taking into account our students, is performing higher than, lower than, or broadly similar to other Victorian government schools, taking into account their students.

We have also prepared for publication a one-page ‘What our school is doing’ statement to accompany the performance summary. This statement shares with the community how we are using our data to put in place strategies that will continue to improve outcomes for our students. You can find this printed below.

For further information on the Government’s strategy, you can access the Transparency and Accountability documents at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/initiatives

Junior Cricket

Results of last game: Johnson 126 defeated Ponting 101

Johnson
David Casey 35 retired
Rowley Walsh 29 retired
Jacob Gleeson 19 retired

Ponting
Jake Hogan 40 retired
Royce Bennett 11 retired

This week: (last game before the break)
4th December – 12th December
Clarke versus Johnson
Umpires: Russell Christie and Michael Walsh (2 weeks)

St. Arnaud & Donald Dance Studio
Proudly Presents
“DANCE XX”
‘Stepping back Moving forward’
Celebrating 20 years of Dance
St. Arnaud Town Hall
Saturday 12th December 2009
2pm & 8pm.
**Music to our ears**

Last Friday night, at the Birchip Senior Citizens Rooms we were given a wonderful treat. Music students, taught by Joan Glen, performed for family, friends and members of the Birchip Senior Citizen Club. The students ranged in age and experience, some with as little experience as a few months tuition. Students came from Birchip, Wycheproof, Rainbow, Boort and Melbourne. After a few selected introductory words Joan handed over the reins to Jessamy Bennett. Jessamy introduced each of the students and announced their chosen piece of music. We not only had the opportunity to hear some delightful playing on the piano but we also had the pleasure of hearing a number of beautiful vocal items.

Members of the audience were very appreciative of all the student performances. Brittany Hogan, Olivia Rickard and Elise Bales provided us with a heart warming rendition of the “chicken song” complete with costume to match. The concert ended with a wonderful performance of Queen’s “We are the Champions”. On behalf of all students, Stephanie McClelland and Jessamy Bennett presented Joan with a small gift in appreciation for all her time, energy and teaching throughout the year. The night ended with supper and plans for next years music lessons.

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**Birchip Tennis Club – Ladies Tournament**

**Tuesday 8th December 2009**

**Catering Roster**

Please deliver food to the Leisure Centre or School that morning. 4 litre salads please.

Any queries please contact Sharee Dobson on 54922321. Thanks.

- Pasta salad and apple & celery salad
  - Sharee Dobson
- Tossed Salad - Simone Christie , Fiona Best
- Potato salad/roll - Heather Hogan
- 2 dozen boiled eggs - Louisa Ferrier
- Chang noodle salad - Bernadette O’Donnell
- Coleslaw - Simone Donnellon
- Tomato & onion salad - Margaret O’Keefe
- Fruit salad - Eileen Smith, Kellie Matthews
- Fruit platter - Jenny Goldsmith
- 4 litres of ice cream and 2 litres of milk
  - Jamie Lovett
- 1 cooked chicken - Louise Lee, Johnny Tuthill, Jonathon Doran, Kerrie Walder
- 1 cooked chicken and 1 packet of bread - Warwick McClelland, Josh Moloney, Bernadette Smith
- Tin of beetroot - Louise Lee
- 2 Litres of Milk - Johnny Tuthill
- Passionfruit slice - Jacqui Rymer
- Lemon slice - Wendy Buteux
- Rum balls and cake of own choice
  - Belinda Randall
- Sponge or cake of own choice - Ange Gleeson
- Workers - Marlene Ryan, Kim Driscoll

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**Birchip Tennis**

Ballapur plays Avon in Donald. Cars to leave the cafe at 12.20pm

- I.Smith
- C. Lee
- J. Moloney
- J. Smith
- J. Goldsmith
- M. Walsh
- B. Gleeson
- T. Walder
- H. O’Keefe

**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>1/2</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Mrs Welton</td>
<td>Practise reading times on analogue and digital clocks. Money - counting coins.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Years - 15 minutes reading a day!
For Sale

Electric Organ. Make an offer. Phone Kellie James 5399 0503
Hills monkey bar $20. Phone 5492 2564
2 x Blue single Tubular Beds. $80 each.
Excellent condition. Phone Rachel 5498 1268
Sofa Lounge/Bed
Single bed with trundle and 2 mattresses. Phone
Gwen Kemp 5493 5286
Blue Tigger curtains.
Lace Bananas in Pjamas curtains $10
7 piece dining table - Tasman pine $500.
Left handed cricket gloves - youth $10. Phone
Annette 5085 4253
Don’t Call Me Ishmael $7.50
Private Peaceful $7.50
Size 12 School Jumper G.C. $40
School Tie $5. Phone Pam McKelvie 5492 2781

Wanted to Buy

Jacaranda Atlas 5th Edition Phone Pam McKelvie 5492 2781

To Give Away

Large white rocks & bricks Phone 5492 2564
2 kittens contact Katelyn Bennett 5399 0517

Community Christmas Concert

Primary school students are welcome to star in a short Christmas play as part of the Community Christmas
Carols by Candlelight night on Wednesday 23rd December 2009 in the Birchip Public Hall. All those willing to take part can come along to practice on Monday 21st December 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the hall. For further information ring Angela O’Donnell on 54 922 437 or contact Simone Christie at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre (birchipblc@bigpond.com)
Dear Parents of 2010 year 9, 10 and 11 students,

**One to One Notebook Program 2010**

Thank you to those families who responded to the one to one notebook program.

The survey indicated that 88% of parents were in favour of the one to one notebook implementation and prepared to pay the suggested co-payment.

Considering the outcome of the initial survey of parents and after further investigation into the possibility of implementing a one to one notebook program at the Birchip P-12 School from 2010, School Council last week made the following recommendation.

*“That subject to parent approval, a notebook program be implemented in 2010 for students in years 9, 10 and 11.”*

The cost of a Lenovo notebook will be approximately $1,000.00.

The school would fund $600.00 per notebook with a co-payment from parents of $400.00. This co-payment would only be payable during the first year with nothing payable during the second and third years. This co-payment could be paid in various ways:

- one single year payment of $400.00 or
- four payments of $110.00 per term spread over the first year or
- eight payments of $60.00 per term spread over the first two years
- other – please discuss with the principal

*A further annual fee of approximately $50.00 to cover accidental damage as insurance is being investigated.*

The notebooks would remain the property of the school for a period of three years after which they could then be purchased for a small sum e.g., $1.00. This avoids issues with software licensing, warranty, GST etc, as they remain the property of the school during this time.

It is envisaged that the notebooks would become part of a three year rotation cycle.

The notebook would have appropriate software pre-loaded for educational use including MS Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access, Publisher), Adobe Photoshop, FileMaker Pro, Graphmatica, Casio Classpad 300 and various other software types for students to use. There will also be virus protection software installed.

The school favours the Lenovo [IBM] brand with specifications similar to:

- Intel® Core™2 Duo processorT6670 (2.2GHz, 800MHz FSB, 2MB L2 Cache)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Business 32bit SP1
- 14.1" WXGA TFT Active Matrix Display (1280x800)
- 4GB DDR2 (800MHz)
- 160GB HDD (5400rpm)
- DVD SuperMulti Double/Dual Layer Drive
- WLAN (802.11a/g/n): 1GBit LAN
- 3year onsite next business day warranty
- Robust carry bag
In the past we have allowed senior students to connect to the school’s network and utilize our tech staff when assistance is required. This will not continue except for students in the 2010 year 12 class.

Further private purchases of notebooks will not be given access to the school’s network in the future.

Only the school model (described above) and imaged by the school will have school network access. For 2010 and beyond, this means students in years 9, 10 and 11 who have school notebooks will have network access.

This letter seeks parent approval of School Council’s decision to implement this one to one notebook program for 2010. From this response, a 2010 year 9, 10 and 11 student-parent information evening will be held to explain the initiative and to discuss any issues you may have.

Thank you for your feedback.

John Richmond
Principal

One to One Notebook Program 2010

We are in favour of the proposed one to one notebook program for 2010 students in years 9, 10 and 11

Yes No

We would be willing to pay an appropriate co-payment as suggested above.

Yes No

We would appreciate an information evening to further explain and discuss this initiative.

Yes No

2010 Year 9 Student Name ________________________________

2010 Year 10 Student Name ________________________________

2010 Year 11 Student Name ________________________________

Name: ________________________________ Signed: ________________________________

Have you returned your response yet?
Please do so ASAP so that further planning can take place.
It is hard to believe that December is upon us and school finishes in just over two weeks. This will be the last Parents’ Club News until next year. I would like to say thank you to all parents and friends who helped over the past year with catering and other activities related to our school. Everyone is busy, so we really appreciate the help and participation by all concerned. We have had some great functions and I would like to highlight the Staff Brownlow Night. Thank you to Tina Garcia and her friend Tina for making the night such a success.

A particular thank you goes to Trish Lehmann for her tireless work in organizing the catering and to Janine Paley and Deanne Botheras for their Mothers’ Day & Fathers’ Day organizing (make that shopping) skills.

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to Jenny Hogan for leading our Parents’ Club all year. Jenny made everyone feel incredibly welcome and encouraged all of us to voice our opinions so that issues could be discussed. Thank you Jenny, from all members of the Parents’ Club.

We have our last catering function next Monday 7th December - The Grade Six Celebration Dinner. I am sure it will be a great success and the Parents’ Club members congratulate all Grade Six students on completing their Primary School Education. We wish you well in your secondary years.

At our last General Meeting on Monday 30th November, Rosalie Gould provided us with a wonderful list of “fund raising” ideas. Our thanks go to Rosalie. So, watch out in 2010. Potted plants will be on sale again at the School Fete. If anyone has a few pots to spare, and is willing to water over summer, please feel free to “pot up” a few plants.

John Richmond provided us with a wonderful and comprehensive report regarding what is happening at Birchip P-12 School. His reports all year have been invaluable and we look forward to continuing our contact with John. Thank-you John.

The most important part of our meeting was the wonderful, and at times, very humorous presentation by our 4 Alpine School Students – Jesse Smith, Ashlea Potter, Laura Lee and Emily Smith. Each student shared with us some of the experiences (good and not so good) that they participated in while at Dinner Plain. It was obvious that all students had thoroughly enjoyed their stay and had come home with a very much broadened education. But, more importantly I think, a deeper understanding of not only themselves but of others and their environment. Thank you Jesse, Ashlea, Laura and Emily – it was a privilege to be able to share your thoughts and your experiences.

Ros McCallum - Secretary Parents’ Club

Editors Note: Thank you to Ros for your wonderful efforts as secretary in ensuring the school community is kept informed of Parents’ Club happenings. I trust you all have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.
HABITS OF MIND

‘Thinking about your Thinking – Metacognition’

In 1956, Benjamin Bloom created his thinking taxonomy for categorising the level of abstraction of questions that commonly occur in classrooms. Students in year 9&10 Chemistry and Physics recently completed a research assignment on Optics: Light and Photography that was structured using Bloom’s Taxonomy.

Outlined below are some examples of the student’s responses to a variety of tasks.

**Remembering**
Learning about memory systems
Emily Smith - poster

**Understanding**
Explaining ideas and concepts
Laura Lee - brochure

**Creativity**
Generate new ideas
Claire Boyle – negatives of photos taken with pin hole camera

**Apply**
Use the information in another situation.
Karleigh Weir - pin hole camera

**Analysis**
Differentiation between items.
Nick Bales - flow chart