Birchip P-12 School
A Mindful School

Forthcoming Events

December
Friday 17th  Last official day of school. 1.15pm finish.

February 2011
Tuesday 1st  Staff return for 3 days of professional development
Thursday 3rd  Students in grade 1 → year 12 return
Friday 4th & Monday 7th  Prep pre-testing
Tuesday 8th  Prep students commence school

Last newsletter & thank you

This is the last newsletter for the year – in fact the 40th!

Thank you to teachers, education support staff, parents, the wider community and of course the students of the Birchip P-12 School for another action packed and successful year. Thank you to our parents who, in general, continue to be so amazingly supportive of what we are trying to achieve at Birchip P-12 School. Whether it be parent-teacher interviews, school fete, sporting activities, catering functions, mothers’ and fathers’ day stalls, valedictory and celebration dinners and working bees, parents have worked, supported and promoted our school. It is a pleasure and also a challenge at times to lead a school community of empowered students, staff and parents.

In general, I believe the staff, students and parents are incredibly supportive of the initiatives and opportunities provided to our students. Of course, we are still focused on improving students’ literacy and numeracy standards but at the same time offer a greater range of more challenging, exciting and engaging educational opportunities. We will continue to deliver education to our students by offering various opportunities, taking risks when needed and certainly moving beyond the classroom walls.

Best wishes for a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and let’s look forward to another exciting year of growth, risk taking and education in 2011.

Commencement of school – 2011

The school office will be open from Tuesday 1st February 2011.

Farewell to Mr Takashi Okada

Takashi has been with us since April 2010.

It's time to say good bye to him. He will leave Birchip after Christmas to Sydney.

We hope he has a lot of good memories of Birchip.

Good luck and all the best Takashi.
Thank you very much to Mr Gavin McRae for hosting Takashi for the last 6 months.
2010 Presentation Award Night

The Birchip Presentation Night on Tuesday was a time to celebrate student achievement in many areas of endeavour; academic, sporting and cultural.

2010 Grade Six Graduates

The Year 6 graduating class with their teacher, Mr Greg Welton was presented to the audience and they surely looked grown-up and ready to take on the challenges of high school.

Amy Bennett, Royce Bennett, Rebecca Botheras, Shae Colbert, Leslee Cooper, Carl Egerer, Cheryl Kemp, Georgia Lee, Jayden McGinnis, Sam Milne, William Naylor, Tahlia Noonan, Sam Owa, Madeline Paley, Seamus Spicer, Ashlee Tierney

Year 7 – 12 Academic Awards:

Academic awards were presented to students who had gained a greater than 80% average. The duxes of each year level are highlighted in bold font.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
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<td>Riley Sayle</td>
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<td>Jahneva McGinnis</td>
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<td>Dammy Owa</td>
<td>Darci Tierney</td>
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<td>Samuel Phelan</td>
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<td>Harrison Christie</td>
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<td>Jacob Gleeson</td>
<td>Hayley Hogan</td>
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<td>Claudia Lee</td>
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<td>Laura Phelan</td>
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The Birchip P-12 School Newsletter

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VCE Academic Awards
The VCE Academic Prizes in English, Mathematics, Commerce and Studio Art went to Kate Watts. Mikaela Christie won the Social Science prize, Darcie Cooper won the Science Prize, Brett Barker the Physical Education Prize and Nathan Bennett the Technology Prize. Kate Watts also won the Janet Lee Memorial Prize for her genuine interest in literature.

Lions’ Club Achievement Awards
The Lions’ Club Achievement awards were awarded to students who approached their studies with enthusiasm and effort.

**Primary Achievement Awards**
- Grade Prep - Tadhg Lowry
- Grade 1 - Nicholas Rickard
- Grade 2 - Katie Bennett
- Grade 3 - Malachy Lowry
- Grade 4 - Darcy Sheahan
- Grade 5 - Jack Lee
- Grade 6 - Sam Owa

**Secondary Achievement Awards**
- Year 7 - Nikko Garcia
- Year 8 - Cooper Benfield
- Year 9 - Stephanie Martin
- Year 10 - Emma Forrester
- Year 11 - Gerhard Egerer

2010 Year Twelve Graduating Class
The Year 12 students were introduced onto the stage by the Later Years Manager, Mr Russell Christie to receive their VCE and VCAL certificates. Dressed in their stylish clothes, they were transformed from school students to young adults with panache.
Dux of School
The Dux of School for 2010 was Kate Watts with an excellent ATAR of 95.2. Kate received 3 scores over 40. Kate’s Studio Arts project is short-listed for the Top Arts 2010 Awards. Kate plans to study Physiotherapy at Latrobe Bundoora.
Kate wins a cheque for $500. This award is sponsored by Marion & Philip Scambler & an anonymous donor.

All-Rounder Award
The Richmond / Gourlay award recognizes a year 12 student who has achieved academic excellence, shown outstanding commitment and contribution to the Birchip P-12 School and community, taken an active role in sports and shown all-round leadership.
The ‘All Rounder’ Award was won by Brett Barker who receives a cheque for $200 donated by Carrie Richmond & Jono Gourlay.

Australian Defence Force Awards Scholarships
The Australian Defence Force awards scholarships each year to students who show leadership, the ability to work in a team, who can communicate well and are involved in the community. In 2010, at Year 10, Emily Smith received a cheque for $100, Mikaela Christie in Year 11 won a prize of $250 and Ashlee Donnan received a cheque for $500.

This year Deakin University gave an access and equity scholarship valued at $200, Emily Hogan was the 2010 award winner.
VET & VCAL Awards

The school offers a wide range of non-traditional courses at the senior level and these are becoming very popular. Brady Milne was awarded a VET Certificate II (Furnishing) and a Foundation VCAL Certificate. Branden Atkinson was awarded a $200 prize for being the outstanding student in VET Certificate II (Hospitality) and in Foundation VCAL.

Parents’ Club Arts Award

The pursuit of the arts is important to the overall development of an individual and this year the winners were: Leslee Cooper in the primary section and Kate Watts in the secondary school.

Lions Club Sports Awards

These awards are based on a points system that takes into account, swimming, cross country and athletics. A greater number of points was awarded for representation at interschool, zone and state levels. Consideration was also given to membership and captaincy of winning carnival teams.

Year 5 and 6 champions: Georgia Lee, Sarah Botheras and Royce Bennett
12 and 13 year old champions Claudia Lee and Sean Hogan
14 year old champions Marnie Lehmamn and Cooper Benfield
15 year old champions Courtney Gleeson, Riley Doran and Harrison Christie
16 year old champions Sophie Noonan and Brenten Delaney
17 year old champions Chantel Emonson, Tim Walder and Hugh O’Keefe
18-21 year old champions Kate Watts, Ashlee Donnan
Marshall Connelly and Nathan Bennett and Brett Barker

This year, although Fraser won the Interhouse swimming, Young won the cross country and athletics. Thus, Young won the House Championship for 2010 and House Captains Kate Watts and Nathan Bennett accepted the trophy.
2010 Habits of Mind Award

This year we implemented a Habits of Mind Award and each week students nominated their peers for this weekly award and there were many outstanding nominations. Students were nominated for how they used their prior learning to inform their decisions, managed their impulsivity and didn’t take the first option they thought of, were flexible in their thinking, listened to others with empathy and understanding, and did not give up and persisted in their endeavours, were accurate in their work, thought for themselves, communicated their ideas clearly, posed questions and did not always accept what they were told and took responsible risks in their lives.

This year’s winner was Ashleigh Baird who received an 8G iPod Touch. Ashleigh won this award for her persistence and for being able to find humour in difficult situations.

Citizenship Awards:

The Primary Citizen Award winner was Madeline Paley for being a capable daily Huff’n’Puff leader and who helped to organise a primary yard duty team and prepared items for the fete as well as helping organise the P-3 Sports Competition. Madeline was a driving force behind the P-3 Craft Sessions and capably communicated details of sessions at primary assemblies. As well as being a valued member of the victorious T ball, Netball and Kanga Cricket teams, Madeline promoted Bandanna day to the wider school community. She was the treasurer of the Junior SRC and gave her time freely to organise activities for her fellow students.

The winner of the secondary citizenship award was Mikaela Christie. She was a busy person who was involved in sport and the Youth Group. She coached junior netball and captained Junior A netball, she umpired junior hockey and played senior tennis and hockey. She was the President of the Birchip Youth Group and volunteered to waitress for many groups in the town. This year she was winner of the Victorian government’s Community Sport and Recreation 2010 Young Sportsperson of the year.

International Visitors

This year our school has been extremely fortunate to host three very lovely international people. From each of these people we have learned about their country of origin and their cultures; and this infusion of different cultures has made our lives all the richer.

Akubra hats were presented to students; Emma Steidl from Italy and Sara Sydengen from Norway. Takashi Okada from Japan has been with us for a year and worked as a teacher’s assistant.

Positions of Responsibility

It is always pleasing to see young people develop into responsible adults and this happens by students taking on positions of responsibility. From a young age, primary students are coached to be reliable bus captains and monitors. Students are also given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the SRC. The executive of the primary and secondary SRC were awarded books for their hard work throughout the year.

The Primary SRC

President: Georgia Lee, Vice: Ashlee Tierney, Secretary: Sam Milne, Treasurer: Madeline Paley, OHS and E.O. Officer: Tahlia Noonan
The Secondary SRC
President: Marshall Connelly,    Vice President: Mikaela Christie, Secretary: Darcie Cooper
Treasurer: Cassie Hogan,    Physical Resources:    Emily Smith
The House captains: Young: Kate Watts and Nathan Bennett,   Fraser: Ashlee Donnan and Brett Barker were given books for the enthusiastic and reliable way they administered their duties over the year.
School Captains Brett Barker and Ashlee Donnan addressed their audience. Brett spoke about how proud he was to be the school captain of a school that had remained constant in its endeavours to provide the best education for its students. Both Brett and Ashlee thanked all their teachers for their hard work and for being so approachable and caring. Brett stated that he hoped to pursue a career in agriculture and eventually to return to give advice to farmers on how to grow decent crops. Ashlee wished that her classmates were happy in the direction that their lives took them. Ashlee has been an avid campaigner against bullying and discrimination of any sort and in parting, she implored the audience to treat others with respect and to ensure that they did not put others down.

This year we have a number of departing staff.
Mrs Nikki Coatsworth took leave midyear to take on the new role of parenting twins Priya and Mitchell and at the year’s end Miss Connely Barclay will take leave to welcome her expected child. Miss Stacey Hicks will also leave early in semester one to take on a parenting role as well.
Aaron Valentine joined our staff as an integration aid at the start of the year. The grade six children have very much enjoyed Aaron’s presence and support this year. Aaron leaves to attend the University of Ballarat to pursue a teaching career. Miss Sacha Meehan will transfer to Alkira Secondary College in Cranbourne North.

Sandra Naughton
Sandra Naughton will leave at the end of the year after an involvement in the school of some 32 years; first as a parent in 1979 when her daughter Cassandra commenced primary school. Sandra became involved in Parents’ Club taking on roles of President, School Council Delegate, and Victorian Regional Representative. Sandra was a School Councillor from 1990 until 2001. She took the role of President for a number of years. Since 2002, Sandra has been employed at the school as a valued Education Support Staff member. She has been a middle years tutor, literacy tutor, numeracy tutor, speech therapy intervention person and teacher assistant. We thank Sandra sincerely for the wonderful contributions she has made to support the education of our students.

Mrs Carol Taylor
Mrs Carol Taylor who has been an institution at the school for over forty years will retire from teaching in 2011. Carol commenced teaching at Birchip Primary School in 1970 as a first year out teacher. Carol has taught at every level in the primary section over her time at Birchip and has educated well over one thousand children in this time period. Carol was a teacher who ensured students were well versed in the education basics of the 3Rs – reading, writing and arithmetic. We as colleagues and parents always knew the strength and quality of Carol’s teaching and the high expectations she had for her students. We will miss Mrs Taylor around our school but we thank her very much for the many years of valuable service she has made to our school and the children she taught.
School Council President, Mrs Wendy Watts and Principal of the school, Mr John Richmond spoke of the physical changes that have happened around the school and of the variety of opportunities that are offered to our students. Both thanked the parents, students and community for their continued support of the school as without this we would not be so successful.

**2010 School Captains – Brett Barker & Ashlee Donnan**

**2010 Presentation Night Guest Speaker – Steven Rickard**

In keeping with tradition, a past student was the guest speaker at speech night. This year, Steven Rickard, son of Ken and the late Alison Rickard addressed the attentive audience. Steven completed year twelve in 1993 and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences at Deakin University. Steven always had a passion for learning and he admits he found it hard to restrict himself to what was taught on the curriculum. In grade 6, his teachers remember that he was unbeatable in knowing most of the capital cities of the world.

Steven spoke about how difficult the last year of schooling can be and related that in Year 11 he achieved high marks but then found Year 12 not as enjoyable because he had no clear idea what he wanted to do. He can remember pondering about what would be the consequences if he took certain courses and this confusion led to a certain lack of motivation.

University was not what he had hoped for as in first year, subjects were generic and he again struggled for motivation. At university his friendship base was not as close as it was in Birchip and he couldn’t use his love of sport as a release because of a knee injury. At this stage he seriously considered leaving university but decided to pursue a career in television and worked at Channel 9 during his university holidays. During this time, his cousin in England gave him advice to stay at university and finish his degree. Steven then went to England for seven weeks and worked part-time for Nickelodeon Television and travelled. This was his turning point and he returned to university motivated to finish his degree.

By third year university, subjects were more specifically related to Steven’s interests and he enjoyed studying biochemistry, toxicology and physiological nutrition. This enjoyment transferred into sound results.

After university, he travelled for six months; once again to England and to America. Travel again proved to be another turning point in Steven’s life as while in Washington D.C. he toured the Pentagon and the J. Edgar Hoover Building which is the FBI headquarters. It was here that Steven considered a career with the Australian Federal Police.
The recruiting process for the AFP was extensive. Steven sat IQ tests, aptitude testing, psychological and personality testing, interviews and finally a drug test. There were 9000 applications and Steven was one of 97 selected to commence training in Canberra. He was sworn in as a Federal Agent in July 1999. Steven was then deployed to National Operations in the Melbourne Office. In the AFP, Steven has worked in the areas of airport policing, drug importations, child pornography, family law, identity fraud, sexual servitude and illegal immigration. He has also trained in the fields of surveillance and higher risk search warrant execution for jobs that involve greater danger.

In 2002, he undertook a Close Personal Protection course, designed primarily for the protection of political figures from Australia and overseas who are deemed to be under threat. The course involved; advanced driving, tactical and firearm skills, fitness training, explosive identification, strategic planning and how to debug a room. The course was challenging but great fun as he was paid to do precision wheelies in an armoured car and fight his way out of a building while firing paint pellets. The Bali bombing ensured that he continued in Close Protection for three years.

Steven then went into the field of border protection, concentrating on the importation of narcotics into Australia. This is an area he found satisfying as he believes that drug use is highly destructive to our community and has amplified the epidemic of psychological problems in our community. He then became part of a team that targeted drug trafficking and learned the various intricacies of the Melbourne underworld. In this job he became acutely aware of trust in the team and the importance of preservation of the mission and himself. It made him aware of his surroundings when he walked out of a building and whether he was being tailed by a car. His highlight was the seizure of 1.2 tonnes of ecstasy tablets which was a world record at the time. Catching traffickers higher up the chain is difficult as they normally have the facility to distance themselves from the operation. Steven related that the job is also frustrating as drug traffickers sometimes walk free due to lack of evidence or a legal technicality.

Presently, Steven is with Close Protection and has looked after three Australian Prime Ministers, numerous international leaders and royalty from all over the world. He has coordinated VIP security for events such as F1 Grand Prix, AFL Grand Final, Rugby World Cup and the Australian Open. He has also worked with Israel’s Shin Bet, US Secret Police, Scotland Yard and other authorities from Asia and Europe. He was recently involved with Hillary Clinton’s visit to Melbourne.

Steven’s role requires him to be diplomatic and culturally aware. It also allows him to be privy to the intricacies of the workings of government. He has been one of a handful of people in a room with 23 prominent world leaders such as at APEC and observed who bonds and avoids who in the room. He has also witnessed first-hand the rise to power of our first female prime minister and has actually worked for two Australian Prime Ministers in one day!

His work has taken him overseas to Asia and Europe and allowed him to meet with Arab and European royalty, visit palaces and even the headquarters of FIFA. Steven related a story of him escorting a minister around a middle-eastern golf course flanked by twenty foreign police, armed with machine guns on golf carts.

Currently, his day-to-day role is the protection of the Prime Minister, Israeli Ambassador, US Ambassador and to a lesser extent the Governor General. Steven commented that our Prime Minister is one of the nicest people he has worked for.

Steven closed his address by encouraging students who are about to leave school to make choices wisely because the choices you make are yours alone. He categorically stated that you may be influenced in your choices in life but don’t be led. He saw that ability as an important part in achieving success but attitude towards life is just as vital. He advised students to foster personal interests such as sport or music as life needs balance.

Steven’s address certainly highlighted that many of our students have gone on to live rewarding, interesting and fulfilling lives.

2011 BOOKLISTS
Jim’s and Rainey’s Birchip Newsagency will have a range of hundreds of specials after Christmas. Their prices are very good and as cheap as large department stores.
Please make sure that for all mathematics subjects you must have 1 or 2 A4 Quad Grid books to write in.
Attention Year 12 School Leavers

The North Central LLEN would like to invite you to the 2011 annual O’Night to be held on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at the Charlton Valley Resort function room. The night will feature ideas for managing life after school; whether you’re planning to go to university, TAFE, employment, traineeship, apprenticeship... or something else! Free buses will be running from the eight schools in the North Central Region and finger food and drinks will be provided (bring ID if over 18). There’ll be plenty of activities, competitions and giveaways, plus ‘on the couch’ interviews with former North Central students who have survived to tell the story. It should be a great night and you’ll get a chance to meet up with other students who are heading in the same direction as you in 2011. RSVP via SMS with the name of your school, first and last name, and ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to Lizzie Judd (MIPs Coordinator) on 0429 148 399 by 7th January 2011, or give me a call if you have any questions. Hope to see you all there!

Middle Years English – Students undertaking the English subject ‘Survival’ next year will be studying John Steinbeck’s novel ‘Of Mice and Men’. As this text has been studied previously there should be copies around town that can be purchased second hand.

Students who are studying ‘Australian Made’ will be studying Philip Gwynne’s novel ‘Deadly, Unna?’ This has also been studied in the last two years at Birchip P-12 School and copies should be available around town.

Texts for the Literature class have not been decided at this stage and students will be told early next year.

If copies of these texts can’t be found within Birchip, copies can be obtained from second-hand book shops, most major book shops and from the internet – eg. fishpond.com.au

2011 Year 10 Work Experience

The Year 10 work experience is planned for Monday 2nd May → Friday 6th May 2011. Students should discuss with parents their ideas and possible work experience places they would like to experience. Miss Hicks will coordinate this process in the first four weeks of next term. It would be terrific if this information was known at the start of the year so that arrangements can be made. What type of employment, location and accommodation should all be considered. It would be helpful if parents and or students made contact with the prospective employers for this to occur.

Junior Cricket

What a great game to finish the first half of the season

Chasing 117 for victory Siddle made 114 before running out of wickets and overs.

White 116
Jake Hogan 34 retired
Harrison Christie 33 retired
Jacob Christie 13
James Payley 1 wicket for 3 runs
Defeated Siddle 114
Joe Boyle 30 retired
Brenten Delaney 27 retired
Connor Buteux 2 wickets for 7 runs

With 5 games completed:
Both White and McKay have 2 wins each and Siddle has 1 win so the competition is very close and the final placings will depend on how well teams play after the holiday break

Matches Resume 5th Feb: McKay versus Siddle
(First Saturday after school commences)

Training will commence the following Thursday 10th Feb

2011 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship now open!

As part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank’s commitment to help build stronger communities, we have established a scholarship fund.

Each year grants are awarded to outstanding, but disadvantaged students, usually from a rural area, that have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college campus for the first time.

The Scholarship aims to support first year students who, due to social or financial circumstances, would not have been able to further their education.

Applications for the 2011 Scholarship are now invited

For further information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit http://www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/public/in_the_community/scholarships.asp.
Grade one and two - Persuasive Writing

Last week the Grade one and two class were completing their persuasive writing by writing me a letter about what they believed to be important to them: a swimming pool at the school. Their letters were accompanied by a picture of the pool they wanted.
Text Books for 2011

We will again be running a second hand book shop. If you have any texts that you want to sell, put your name on them together with an asking price and drop them off at the school office.

Courses, especially VCE courses, change all too often and thus new books are needed. The following is a list of VCE texts that are needed for next year and are different from what was studied this year. Old editions are out of date and will not be used next year so please don’t send old editions to school to sell.

**Economics:**
VCE Units 1&2 - In Economics students must have the 6th edition of ‘Economics Down Under Book 1 VCE Units 1 &2 & ebookplus’ by Morris.

VCE Units 3 & 4 - In Economics students must have the 6th edition of ‘Economics Down Under Book 2 VCE Units 1 & 2 & ebookplus’ by Morris.

**Chemistry:**
VCE Units 1&2 - Heinemann Chemistry 1 Student Workbook (4th edition), Lukins
VCE Units 3&4 - Heinemann Chemistry 1 Student Workbook (4th edition), Lukins

**English:**
VCE Units 3&4 - Oxford VCE English Units 3 &4 2011, Leslie
On the Waterfront - film
The Rugmaker of Mazar - Sharif by Mazari

**Information Technology Applications Year 12**
VCE Units 3&4 - IT Applications VCE Units 3&4 (3rd edition), Potts

**Psychology:**
VCE Units 1&2 - Psychology for the VCE Student Units 1 &2 & ebookplus (5th edition) Grivas

**Physical Education:**
VCE Units 1&2 - Nelson Physical Education, Telford, Seery, Whittle, Corrie, Malpeli

**Mathematics Years 10, 11 and 12**
All Year 10, 11 and 12 Maths units will require a CASIO CLASSPAD 300 CAS Calculator - this can be purchased from the school. A note has already been sent home to all students in years 9 & 10. The cost of these calculators is $195.00

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**Second Hand books on the booklist still current: check at home for copies to sell**
Accounting – Cambridge VCE Accounting Units 1 & 2
Australian History – Imagining Australia – Aust History VCE Units 3 & 4
Yr 11 Chemistry – Heinemann Chemistry 1
Yr 12 Chemistry - Heinemann Chemistry 2
Textiles, Wood - Design & Technology VCE Units 1-4 (2nd edition)
Year 11 English - Inheritance (Rayson), Macbeth
Yr 12 English - The Secret River, Year of Wonders
Yr 12 Mathematics - Essential Further Mathematics (classpad version), Essential Mathematical Methods 3 & 4 (CAS classpad version), Essential Specialist Mathematics CAS classpad
Yr 11 Maths - Essential Standard General Maths (CAS class pad version), Essential Maths Methods 1 & 2 (CAS class pad version)
Physics – Yr 11 - Jacaranda Physics 1 (3rd edition),
Year 12 – Jacaranda Physics 2 (3rd edition)
Birchip's Community Christmas Party

In the Hall and Morrison St
Thurs Dec 23rd, from 6.00pm

Merry Christmas

* Santa visiting **Santa’s Kingdom** between 7 & 8pm
* Bouncy castle/slide & Cha-Cha 6.30-10.30pm
* BBQ & soft drink for sale * BYO Alcohol
  * Visual display of the Year that Was
  * Carol singing between 8 & 9pm
* **Music from Philipa Wright, Brydie Lanyon & Georgia Fischer** between 6.30-7.30pm

$10 adult, $5 child (2+) or $30 family.
Includes unlimited rides & entertainment
Congratulations Ashleigh Baird

Ashleigh Baird is the inaugural winner of the Habits of Mind of the Year Award. Whilst on year 8 camp at Portland, Ashleigh’s efforts epitomised how using the Habits of Mind can assist individuals to achieve. Ashleigh persisted during a 10km walk, not once complaining. Her efforts inspired both her peers and accompanying teachers.
The Staff of the
Boarding P.M. School
wish all Parents, Students and
the wider Community a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.