FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Vision
Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

Our Mission
In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Our Focus for 2007
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Feast Day Mass
Mercy Regional College celebrated its Feast Day on Thursday, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. The Eucharist provided the school community with the opportunity to celebrate the life and work of Sr Ursula Frayne the leader of the first group of Mercy sisters to arrive in Australia. The Feast of the patron of Australia, Our Lady Help of Christians was a fitting day to remember the work of this extraordinary woman.

Bishop Peter Connors concelebrated the Mass with Fr Denis Dennehy, Fr Barry Ryan and Fr Barry Stickland.

The college also welcomed back Mr Larry Burn and Dr Liam Davidson past principals of Mercy Regional College. The Eucharist was a wonderful occasion and one which allowed our school community to truly express our Catholic identity and heritage.

Particular thanks are extended to Mrs Margaret Leahy, Director of Religious Education and the other staff that assisted her in preparing for this liturgy.

At the conclusion of Mass our students shared in a BBQ lunch and watched on as the staff defeated the student in the annual cricket match held on the front oval.

Open Night & Morning
Wednesday night at the McAuley Campus prospective students and parents gained information about all that Mercy has to offer, toured the school facilities and then enjoyed a lovely supper prepared by some of our Home Economics students and staff. There was also an opportunity for parents to tour the O’Keeffe Campus the following morning.

A big thank you to the staff, students and parents who assisted on the evening and ensured that our visitors were welcomed and well informed about Mercy Regional College.

2nd Annual Mercy Dinner
This Friday over a 100 people will gather for the second Annual Mercy Dinner commencing at 7.00pm at the Noorat Community Centre. Our guest this year will be Fr Ed Moloney, our first past student to be ordained as a Priest along with Peta Bourke (Year11) performing for us. It again promises to be a most enjoyable evening and I look forward to catching up with all those who are attending.
**School Care Insurance Policy**

Every day there are accidents involving children. To assist parents with the costs associated with those accidents, Catholic Education in association with Catholic Church Insurance Limited has developed the SchoolCare Children’s Accident insurance program.

Mercy Regional College is pleased to be part of this program and our School Activities Only policy provides protection to all children attending our school.

SchoolCare is a worldwide student’s personal accident insurance.

The School Activities Only policy includes cover for school camps, school sports (including sports out of school hours, as long as they are organised by the school), work experience, travelling to and from school or school activities.

It also includes any activity organised or authorised by the school. This includes before and after school care, if organised by the school. Cover is worldwide.

Our policy covers three important areas of care, any one accident may be claimable under one or more of these areas. It is important to note that the policy cannot cover any Medicare service including the Medicare gap. Cover includes:

1. Up to $5,000 inclusive per accident for medical costs from the following registered medical practitioners:
   - Dentist
   - Chiropractor
   - Osteopath
   - Physiotherapist
   - Remedial Massage
   - Podiatry
   - Acupuncture, and also costs from a
   - Chemist, and
   - Hospital Accommodation and Facility Fees

2. Fixed amounts for defined events – for example – when a child accidentally receives a fracture of a hand the policy will pay a fixed amount of $300. The full table of benefits lists all the defined events covered under this policy and the fixed amount payable. The full table of benefits is printable from [www.ccinsurance.com.au](http://www.ccinsurance.com.au)

3. A number of other benefits:
   - Emergency transport
   - Home tuition
   - School Fee relief
   - Hospital Inconvenience Allowance
   - Nursing allowance
   - Professional Counselling Fees

These are all limited to specific amounts per accident; specific amounts are detailed in the table of benefits.

Your child may have an accident so please keep the information contained elsewhere in the newsletter in a handy place for easy reference or contact the College for policy and contact details.

**Text Messages**

There is no doubt that the advance in mobile phone technology has made communication with each other so much easier, and in particular the ability to be able to text one another is something that can be of great benefit. I certainly enjoyed the ability to be able to text family and friends during my recent travels.

However as users of this technology we have a responsibility to our community to use it correctly. This is something that I fear our students do not really understand. I am alarmed at the incidents of inappropriate text messages between students, the content of some messages and the number of messages sent.

As always it seems to be the school that needs to take on the responsibility of ensuring the correct use of text messaging. I would like to think that our area of responsibility lie with learning and teaching! Therefore, I would ask that parents take the necessary steps to become aware of their child’s text messaging habits, the number sent, the time sent, to whom the message was sent and the content of the message. I am sure that some parents will be surprised at the content of some messages. A discussion about using this form of technology responsibly needs to take place.

I would also like to remind parents and students that mobile phones are not permitted in class at any time.

**PTFA**

Our next PTFA meeting will be held on Monday 4th June commencing at 7.30pm at the O’Keeffe Campus.

At an earlier PTFA meeting some issues surrounding our uniform was raised and the need for us to look into a process to review the uniform. To assist in this process a number of options and alternatives will be made available on this evening for parents and students to have a look at. There are now available many different options and I believe it is certainly worthwhile looking into all possibilities. Once we have had a chance to do this, I think that we will be in a better position to decide if a review of the uniform should occur. I wish to emphasize that this is the very early days of any possible change, but at the same time I would encourage parents and students who have thoughts on this issue to come along to this meeting.

At the conclusion of the PTFA meeting supper will be served.
Coming Events

Monday 4th June
- PTFA Meeting 7.30pm O’Keeffe Campus

Tuesday 5th June
- Board Meeting
- Year 9 Camp commences

Thursday 7th June
- Year 9 Camp concludes

Friday 8th June
- Board Holiday

Monday 11th June
- Queens Birthday Holiday

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL

Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award
Victoria Carr for cleaning up constantly around the Year 12 area.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award
Matt Hinkley for his commitment and continued application to his Maths studies.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award
Elizabeth Smart and Patrick Kenna for speaking so well at Open Night.

Feast Day Mass Report
Margaret Leahy - Coordinator

This morning we celebrated our Feast Day Mass! Bishop Peter Connors and Frs Barry Ryan, Denis Denehey and Barry Stickland concelebrated the Eucharist which commemorated the arrival of Sr. Ursula Frayne in Victoria 150 years ago.

The whole school community gathered in the De Chantal stadium along with parents, friends, colleagues and associates of the Mercy Regional College family. The gathering space had been carefully prepared and the atmosphere was one of reverence and joy. I feel sure that Catherine McAuley and Ursula Frayne in whose memory and honour we celebrated would be very proud of the students of our College.

There are many people to thank and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those students and parents who so willingly gave up time to make the celebration worthy of those who have shaped our college up to the present day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musicians and Singers</th>
<th>Entrance Procession</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Saunders</td>
<td>Amy Johnston</td>
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<td>Anna Whiting</td>
<td>Josh Saunders</td>
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<td>Peta Bourke</td>
<td>Erin Adams</td>
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<td>Sinead O’Connor</td>
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<td>Sarah Kemp</td>
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<td>Matt Almond</td>
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<td>Mrs J O Saunders</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael Goss</td>
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<td>Mrs. Maria Russell</td>
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<td>Libby Buchholz</td>
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<td>Louise Place</td>
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<td>Josh Saunders</td>
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<td>Rachel Hall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Technology wizards</th>
<th>Liturgy</th>
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<td>Michelle Ryan</td>
<td>Mrs. Jenny Binder</td>
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<td>James Lenehan</td>
<td>Mrs. Jenny Corney</td>
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<td>Ian Nicholson</td>
<td>Jared Lenehan</td>
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<td>Anna Whiting</td>
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<td>Michael Krybolder</td>
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<td>Nicholas Clarke</td>
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<td>Mrs. Clare Jehu</td>
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<td>Sr. Imelda</td>
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<td>Sr. Philomene</td>
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<td>Monique O’Sullivan</td>
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<td>Kirby Russell</td>
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All of these people took their roles with a great sense of respect for the importance of the occasion. However, such events do not come together easily and those who work behind the scenes are often the lynch pins who are rarely seen.

For their assistance in a variety of ways I would also like to thank Mr. Danny Gordon, Mrs. Sue Bohm and Mrs. Maureen Adeney. The flowers and our ‘makeshift’ altar looked marvelous with an enormous effort from Mrs. Coral McCarthy, Mrs. Jennifer Delaney Mrs. Margaret Russell and Mrs. Mary Daffy.
From the Wellbeing Coordinator  
Kerin Glennen  

**Child Support Legal Service**  
The Child Support Legal Service of Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) assists parents with legal problems relating to:
- Getting or paying child maintenance including (over 18 maintenance)
- Getting or paying child support
- Parentage testing
- Changes to assessment

The service visits VLA offices every month and major regional centres quarterly or more often. The interviews schedule includes Warrnambool 1st June. To contact the Child Support Legal Service for information regarding venues, video conferencing or making a booking call 0392690408 or 1800 677 402 during office hours.

**Cameras at school**  
Students are asked not to bring their personal cameras to school. The random taking of pictures of fellow students and staff are not permitted. This is a privacy issues and also the problems that may arise if these pictures are posted on the web.

**Alcohol and Adolesences**  
Alcohol is the most widely used recreational drug in Australia. Many adults drink to relax, celebrate, escape reality and enjoy themselves. Most adolescence will use alcohol sensibly and safely, and only a small proportion who experiment with alcohol will go on to experience problems with its use. However, parents, caregivers, families and the wider community may have some concerns about the potential problems or harms surrounding adolescence and alcohol.

How much influence can you, your family and community have on adolescents use of alcohol? Families play a big role in teaching adolescences about alcohol. Studies have shown that parents and families are strong influences in how young people use alcohol. (1999 Shanahan and Hewitt). You can also have a significant influence on what young people think about the use and abuse of alcohol. Many parents believe that they don’t have much influence at all on their adolescence children, when it comes to alcohol and other drugs.

Studies in Australia and overseas consistent show that parents are the most common source of alcohol for young people. Friends and older siblings are less common source of alcohol. The two most common places for students to drink alcohol are in the family home or at a friend’s home. A recent survey (Australian Secondary student’s use of alcohol 2002) showed that on their last drinking occasion nearly two out of three teenage drank alcohol under adult supervision.

Please talk to your son and or daughter about the harm that alcohol can have on a young body and the devastating affects that that it can have on a family. All members of our community must take on the responsibility of caring for our young and speaking frankly with them about the dangers of alcohol abuse at a young age.

**From the School Support Person**  
Christine Moloney  

**Parent Library**  
New to our Parenting Library collection is a book about **bullying** and the steps that can be taken to deal with this problem.

**Bully Blocking** offers practical advice to help children (aged 4-16) deal with bullies who tease, exclude, intimidate or harass. Importantly, this book shows how the attitudes of both bullies and their targets can be transformed to ensure that their self-destructive behaviour does not carry on into the future.

The Six Secrets of Relating, the core of the book, show children how to:
- understand their feelings
- realise why they are being bullied or teased (or why they bully others)
- build their self-esteem
- become confident communicators
- create a ‘power pack’ of helpful skills
- develop a support network

We have several copies of this book available for borrowing over a three week period. Other books in the library are:
- **Surviving Adolescents**
- **Raising Real People**
- **The Princess B....Face Syndrome**.

To borrow any of these books please contact myself on 5592 2017 or the school and they can be sent home via your child or by arrangement.

**From the Business Manager**  
Martin Ellul  

Parents wishing to pay their fees into the school bank account can use the account number below. This is the only account of Mercy Regional College that is to be used for deposits. When making a deposit parents must identify themselves by name and their school fee account number on the deposit slip.

**National Australia Bank**  
BSB Number 083 523  
Account Number 5288 99931
Feast Day (SRC): Staff Vs Student Cricket Match
John Houlihan SRC Coordinator

Once again the annual staff vs student cricket match has proved to be a great success, with the staff and students alike enjoying an entertaining afternoon of first grade cricket! Bishop Peter Connors commenced the match via bowling the first ball of innings to Mr Lachie Lee, whilst Mr Justin Staunton and Justin Logan (Yr 12) provided a comical commentary of the events unfolding on the pitch.

The cricket match enabled an important opportunity for a positive focus on staff / student relationships at MRC, which is one of the major aims of the SRC for 2007. We are indeed very fortunate at MRC with the genuine, open and professional relationship that is evident between the staff and the students, which makes MRC a very positive learning environment for all involved.

The weather was ideal for the cricket match and the SRC and staff did an amazing job in cooking the BBQ and serving drinks. It was great to see a number of staff and students working side by side to ensure that this event will continue for many years to come.

Staff Line-up

Guest of Honour: Bishop Peter Connors
Umpires: John Houlihan & Daniel Beard

Batting Pairs

Lachie Lee (Captain) and Mark Evans / Jenny Binder and Jo Saunders / Paul Glynn and Leigh Van Den Berghe / James Castles and Rebecca Rees / Wayne Walsh and Martin Ellul / Dean Ludeman and Sharyn Grinter / Emergency: Maureen O’Loughlan and Michael Clements

Student Line-up

Team Managers: SRC Representatives

Batting Pairs

Year 7: Daniel Watson and Emily Kemp / Year 8: Tyson Osborne and Joe Muir / Year 9: James Lenehan and Lauren Carlin / Year 10: James Rantall and Grace Conheady / Year 11: Jayne Rantall and Adam Thulborn / Year 12: Stephen Staunton and Alice Corneby

Result

Staff one the overall game
From the Head of Sport
Darren Cheeseman

Cross Country
The Mercy Regional College Cross-Country Team participated against the other HSSSA Schools yesterday. In fine conditions students set some excellent times over the course. All students participated well with many top five finishes. Overall we finished first in front of Cobden Technical School and Terang College. While we didn't have any individual champions our consistency throughout the age groups gave us a big advantage. Well done to all students that represented the school well.

CAS Football
On Monday the 14th of May the Year 8 boys participated in the Catholic All Schools Junior Football Competition at Colac. The games were against other Catholic Schools from Geelong and Colac. Although we weren't successful on the day it was a great experience to play against these strong football schools. Well done to all the boys for their efforts.

Coming Up
Hampden Cup Football and Netball (Year 9).

From the Music Coordinator
Michael Goss

School Production
After a lengthy process of trying to encourage more student involvement in this year’s school production of “Leader of the Pack”, it has been decided not to go ahead with a production this year. While this is disappointing, we will hopefully be able to stage a performing arts evening later in the year.

World Youth Day – Theme Song
The theme song for the XXIII World Youth Day in 2008 (WYD08) has been chosen. Written by Guy Sebastian, “Receive the Power” will become the anthem for Australia’s hosting of the world’s largest youth event in Sydney next year. More information can be found on the website www.wyd2008.org

From the Sports Department
Michael Clements

Weights needed
As you can see Steve Staunton is enjoying a ride on the school's exercise bike. He is trying to keep fit, but he not only wants to feel fit he wants to look fit! So we have decided as part of our lunchtime activities program at Mercy to introduce a lunchtime weights class. The only problem is we have no weights, so, we are looking for donations of old unused and unwanted weights from the community with which to set up our weights room.

If you can be of assistance please contact one of the following staff - Michael Clements, James Castles, Darren Cheeseman on 55932 011. Thanking you.

Year 10 Community Visiting Program
Year 10 RE Teachers
Helen Kenna
Justin Staunton
Sharyn Grinter

The Year 10 Religious Education Curriculum has, for a number of years, incorporated a successful Community Visiting Program. The 2007 program commenced at the beginning of Term 2 for Year 10A with 10B and 10C following in the coming two terms.

The students prepare for this by using resources available at school and in the wider community, including guest speakers, and then select a venue where they believe that they can enhance and build on their knowledge through their volunteer work.
Our students also perform a valuable role assisting others at their various placements. The significant contribution that they are currently making is, in many ways, a learned response through growing up in families and communities that are committed to volunteering and we recognize your leadership as parents in this area.

We acknowledge the support and warm welcome that our students receive at each of the following venues:

Merindah Lodge, Camperdown
Sunnyside House, Camperdown
David Newman Centre, Camperdown
Cooinda, Camperdown
St. Thomas’ Primary School, Terang
St. Colman’s Primary School, Mortlake
St. Patrick’s Primary School, Camperdown

The technology centre has been very busy in the first part of semester 1. With a new group of year 7 students enthusiastically going about their projects starting with their Key Tag and Photo Frames which are all made from plastic, the students have had a great time making these projects as well as designing some wonderful key tags.

The year 7 students are currently making their CD racks and are going well. In year 8 our students are very busy at the moment making bedside tables, bar stools or dual CD/DVD racks. The main focus for the year 8 students is their measuring and marking out skills with the students also learning dowel and biscuit joining.

In year 9 students have been working really well on their coffee tables, at this level they are learning how to design and develop ideas as well as using different ideas, these tables are looking great with some wonderful designs being developed.

Our year 10’s are right in to their projects as well as working on their design folios, the folios are a major part of their curriculum in year 10, 11, 12. There are some great projects being made.

The year 11 students have completed their group design project and are very busy with their own project as well as their folios, most folio work will have to be completed at home so keep on their backs Mums and Dads they have plenty to do. The year 12 design technology class has started very well with their SACS and folio work. They are currently working on their projects using some beautiful timbers which you will be able to see at the arts night in semester 2.

A note to all parents that the students in years 7,8,9,10 that they will be finishing their projects shortly and will have to purchase some paint and stains etc. to finish there project completely.

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From the Science Coordinator
John Houlihan

It has been a busy few weeks in the science department with a number of extra curricula activities occurring throughout the period.

I was pleased to see a number of students undertake the University of New South Wales Science Competition on Thursday 10th May and I look forward to receiving the results of the competition in the not too distant future. The competition was compulsorily for Years 7 and 8 students and optional for Years 9 - 12. The competition is an important activity that complements our science curriculum at MRC, which encourage students in the skills of interpreting and applying data such as observing, measuring, predicting, and concluding and higher order skills such as investigation, reasoning and problem solving.
I recommend that Years 7 and 8 students undertake the competition during their senior school years.

On Friday 18th May Mrs Berni Sinnott’s Year 8A Science class along with myself hosted Mrs Margie Sinnott and her class of Prep students from St Patrick’s Primary School. It is always a pleasure to have our ‘little’ neighbours from next door come and work with the MRC students. The Year 8 students are currently undertaking a unit of Electricity and were more than happy to share some of their knowledge via hands on activities (series and parallel circuits, Van de Graaf generator, electronic kits, static electricity with balloons and plenty more) with the Prep students who have just finished learning about various sources of energy. The St Patrick’s students seemed to have a great deal of fun as did our Year 8 students and staff!

Mrs Fiona Sargeant and her Year 7N class undertook an excursion to the water reclamation plant in Camperdown. From all accounts the students had a very informative 45 minutes session, which was conducted by Wannon Water. The McAuley Year 7 students will undertake this excursion later during Term 2.

I must say a special thank you to those year 7 students who were so generous in giving of their time for the School Open night on Wednesday 23rd May. Hannah Absalom, Simone Fleming, Elliot Pyke (7A) and Rachael Harney, Emily Kemp, Nathan Sargeant, Millie Moloney (7N) conducted a number of experiments throughout the evening with the assistance of myself, Mr James Castles, Mrs Fiona Sargeant and Mrs Annette Price. From all accounts the science laboratory is a popular room to visit on the night with its hands on activities.

I looked forward to listening to Hugh Saunders (10C) and Matthew Almond (10A) speak at the local Rotary meeting in Camperdown on Tuesday 5th June about the Siemens Science Experience. There will be more information regarding this in the next newsletter for current Year 9 students.

And finally I encourage those parents of Years 7 and 8 students to register to receive the Science Club Newsletter. Each Issue includes a fun activity you can try at home, latest science news, useful weblinks, a quiz, enviro-friendly facts and more. Please visit the following website for more information: www.csiro.au/sciencemail

Heytesbury District Landcare Network

Media Release

Date: Tuesday 15th May 2007

Heading: Foxes targeted in baiting program

The Heytesbury and District Landcare Network are encouraging farmers to boost their fox control efforts prior to calving and lambing seasons by getting involved in a coordinated fox-baiting program being run across the region during May. Reducing fox numbers on your property coming into lambing and calving seasons will reduce losses from foxes attacking vulnerable stock. Fox baiting is relatively quick, easy and cost effective way to control foxes.

Heytesbury Landcare will be selling 1080 fox baits in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries from a local venue during May. The Landcare Network can also provide assistance in completing the necessary paperwork, planning baiting activities, and coordinating baiting with neighbours.

To be able to buy and use 1080 baits, you need an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP). Alternatively, a neighbour or friend with an ACUP can buy and lay the baits for your farm.

For more information or to be involved, please contact Heytesbury and District Landcare Network on 55 983 755.
## MRC/ St. Pat’s Canteen Roster
### Term 2  Weeks 7 - 11
Starting time 10.15am. Any enquiries to Rose – on 55932011 or A/H on 55932862. Thanks.

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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 28 May</td>
<td>Mandy Howard</td>
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<td>Tues 29 May</td>
<td>Bernadette Place</td>
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<td>Denyse Vandeneypde</td>
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<td>Wed 30 May</td>
<td>Julie Briderick</td>
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<td>Caroline Nash</td>
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<td>Thurs 31 May</td>
<td>Ian Hinkley</td>
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<td>Sherill Hinkley</td>
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<td>Fri June 1</td>
<td>Helen Rose</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon June 11</td>
<td>Queens Birthday</td>
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<td>Tues June 12</td>
<td>Maureen Kenna</td>
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<td>Donna Baxter</td>
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<td>Wed June 13</td>
<td>Becky Halloran</td>
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<td>Catherine Krybolder</td>
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<td>Thurs June 14</td>
<td>Andrea Moloney</td>
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<td>Fri June 15</td>
<td>Leanne Field</td>
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### Your Child is Protected by a SchoolCare Accident Policy

**NAME OF SCHOOL**
Mercy Regional College

**POLICY NUMBER**
03.PAE.116133

**POLICY TYPE**
School Activities Only - Basic

**INFORMATION**
If you have any questions please call the SchoolCare Accident HelpLine 1300 138 498

**MAKE A CLAIM**
You can print a claim form and the policy wording from www.ccinsurances.com.au. Your child’s school will need to endorse the claim form prior to it being submitted. You will need a Doctor or Dentist’s Certificate and copies of accounts or invoices for any claimable expenses.

Catholic Church Insurances SchoolCare cannot pay for any Medicare service including the Medicare Gap.
A practical and enjoyable program to help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of parenting pre-adolescents and young teenagers.

For parents of children aged 10 - 13 years

Program explores:
* Connecting
* Monitoring
* Problem solving
* Valuing
* Negotiating
* Limit setting
* Communicating
* Accepting
* Self-care

Duration: 4 x 2.5 hour sessions over four weeks

Date: Commencing Tuesday May 29th
Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm
Location: Ariston, 245-249 Pakington Street, Newtown 3220

Phone: 5227 0817

PLACES LIMITED - REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL
Cost: Gold coin donation

An initiative of the Department of Human Services, delivered by:
Regional Parenting Service
City of Greater Geelong