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 Goals
Community
Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Stolen Generations
Last Wednesday’s events in the Commonwealth Parliament will hopefully be recorded as a significant moment in Australia’s history. Our prayer today is that true reconciliation can now happen where we – both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians – can live in our great country in harmony, mindful and respectful of our past, but confident that a new future lies ahead. I have provided a copy of the apology issued by the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat on the last page of this newsletter.

Below is a prayer for Aboriginal People for us to reflect upon.

AND SO WE PRAY
A Prayer for Aboriginal People

Praise to you, Creator God
for the Indigenous peoples of your world.
Those who have sought your
Spirit of truth
in their ancient cultures,
and who have walked gently
upon the earth.

In our acknowledgement
of their historic pain,
their dispossession and oppression,
we seek to act more justly,
long to love more tenderly,
and yearn to walk in greater
humility with them.

Help us to cross the bridge of opportunity
built by Aboriginal people
in this land under the Southern Cross.

Grant us a new experience of
their many gifts
through your healing grace.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew your
whole creation and bring your peace
to all cultures in the richness of their diversity
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

RIP
Last week Julie May Stickland the mother of Fr Barry Stickland passed away. The College extends its sympathies to Fr Barry and his family.

The College was advised of the passing of Sr Mary (Eulalia) Hyland who taught at St Joseph’s Primary School Noorat (prior to it being the O’Keeffe Campus of MRC) for 28 years and Mr Tarcisio Rosolin of Cobden the father of Mrs Linda Linehan past staff member of MRC. Our prayers and thoughts are with these families.

Board Report
The first Board of Management meeting of Mercy Regional College for 2008 was held last Tuesday at the McAuley Campus. This was the last meeting before the AGM which will be held in March. The Board toured the new and refurbished buildings and were presented with the plans for the O’Keeffe Campus for their review along with the presentation of the College’s 2007 financial reports.

The membership of the Board of Management of Mercy Regional College for 2008 will be finalised at the Annual General Meeting next month.
Letter from the Director of Catholic Education

Included with this newsletter is a letter from Mr Larry Burn, Director of Catholic Education. This year’s letter has three parts:

- A message from Bishop Peter Connors, Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat
- A message from Mr Larry Burn, Director of Catholic Education
- A message from Dr Liam Davidson, Director of Religious Education

I recommend that all parents take the time to read the information provided. If you did not receive the abovementioned letter please contact the College office and we will arrange for the material to be sent home.

School Buses

On the front page of last week’s Corangamite Extra there was an article about overcrowded school buses in the Corangamite region. I became aware of this possibility last year and at that time contacted Cobden Technical School (coordinating school for buses in the southern area) the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Education to express my concerns and the need for the situation to be reviewed as a matter of urgency. At that time I was given assurances that contact would be made by both the Department of Infrastructure and Department of Education to Cobden Technical School with a view to solving the problem.

In speaking with both the Department of Infrastructure and Department of Education I was advised that bus transport needed to be provided for families who elected to send their children to Mercy Regional College as we are the nearest Catholic school. There can be no discrimination against children travelling on government buses if parents elect to send their children to a Catholic school. However if parents elect to send their children to department school bus transport will be provided to the closest Department school. I am of the opinion that some of the overcrowding of buses is due to students travelling to other department school that are not considered to be the closest to a family’s home. I have informed the Bus Coordinator at Cobden Technical School with a view to solving the problem.

Retreats and Camps

Last week saw our Year 11 and 12 students undertake their annual retreat, with Year 11 students spending three days at Halls Gap and Year 12 students staying just outside Dunkeld. Our Year 7 students went to Portland for their Orientation Camp. I was able to visit each of the camps and retreats during the course of the three days. I was most impressed with they way all students were participating in the programs and all teachers spoke very highly of the students’ behaviour and involvement.

The camps and retreats certainly cannot operate without a team of dedicated staff. When staff volunteer to organise and attend camps and retreats this requires a significant sacrifice of personal time. It requires teachers to be away from families and other commitments for three days and while on camp being responsible for students 24 hours a day. With little sleep each night our teachers are able to ensure that our students have a wonderful and worthwhile experience. I also think it is important to note that not one extra dollar is paid to staff to undertake camps and retreats.

I am indeed grateful to all the staff that organised and participated in our camp and retreat program this year, I trust that both parents and students are grateful for their efforts also. I wish to thank the following staff that gave up their time to allow the camping and retreat program to operate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11 Retreat</th>
<th>Year 12 Retreat</th>
<th>Year 7 Camp</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Leahy</td>
<td>Lyn Davies</td>
<td>Tony Wynd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellie Wilson</td>
<td>Jenny Phillips</td>
<td>Jenny Binder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leanne Carpenter</td>
<td>Dean Ludeman</td>
<td>Jo Saunders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Horan</td>
<td>Lachie Lee</td>
<td>Michael Clements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Beard</td>
<td>Lisa Pope</td>
<td>David Wall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne Walsh</td>
<td>James Castles</td>
<td>Sharyn Grinter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Horan</td>
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<td>Maria Russell</td>
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Student Achievement

Early in February Matt Hinkley was profile on the back page of the Corangamite Extra after having competed at the Victorian Junior Masters in Melbourne coming away with an impressive result.

Out of a field of 150, Matt was able to finish in 27th place. Congratulations Matt!

The College is always pleased to hear of student achievement outside of school activities so please feel free to contact the College to provide details.
Swimming Carnival
Last Friday, the College held its annual swimming carnival, with all students participating in the numerous swimming events. The eventual winners for the day were Ryan House. The age champions were:

U/13 Female Kayla Spicer
Male Liam Darcy
U/14 Female Amy Gaut
Male Dylan Lee
U/15 Female Ellie Kenna
Male James Devlin
U/16 Female Megan Bullen (tie)
Male Eamonn O’Connor
U/17 Female Katie Milbourne
Male Xavier Darcy
U/21 Female Marley Binder
Male Stephen O’Connor

Congratulations to all members of House and the Age Champions

Year 10 Work Experience
While our Year 7, 11 and 12 students were at camp and retreat, our Year 10 students participated in the work experience program for the week. The reports from the employers have been overwhelmingly positive and I congratulate our Year 10 students on the way in which they participate in the workforce for the week.

Particular thanks and appreciation are extended to Mrs Lisa Pope who was responsible for the organization of the work experience program, Mr Wayne Walsh who worked with the students last year in preparing them for the week and Mrs Maureen Adeney for her assistance with the organization of the placements and the completion of the extensive paper work associated with work experience.

Date Claimer
Last year the second Annual Mercy Dinner was held where the College welcomed back and honoured past student Fr Ed Moloney and I am sure that all those in attendance would agree it was a great night. This year the third Annual Mercy Dinner will be held on Friday 18th April commencing at 7.00pm at the Noorat Community Centre. Our guest this year will be Dr Lauren Bourke who graduated from medicine in 200. This year the College will also be taking the opportunity to honour staff members who give 15+ and 25+ years of service to the College. It again promises to be a most enjoyable evening, so please make a note in your dairies and keep the date free.

Assessment Planners
An assessment planner has been drawn up for each year level detailing the week that particular assessment items are due for different subjects. These planners will provide parents and students with details relating to the assessment items that need to be completed during Semester 1. A copy has been distributed to each student in homeroom this week and a copy of this assessment planner has been posted home to parents. This will provide a reference for parents, so that assistance can be given to students in preparing for these important assessment items. From time to time it may be necessary for the date of an assessment item to change. Therefore attached to each newsletter will be the due dates for the next two weeks. If a change has occurred it will appear in the newsletter.

School Photos
On Monday 3rd March school photos will be taken. Information about these photos will be sent home with students. On this day students will have their photos taken with school jumpers on. Therefore it is essential that all students have their school jumpers with them on this day. Needless to say the rest of the uniform should as always be worn correctly. The polishing of school shoes prior to Monday would not go astray.

Uniform
I would like to remind all students of the importance of representing Mercy Regional College to the highest possible standard when in the general community. One very practical way in which all students can achieve this is through wearing the College uniform correctly and with pride.

The details relating to the College uniform are clearly expressed in various documents including the student diary. I would ask for parents’ support in ensuring that all our students wear the uniform correctly and with pride.

Receiving the School Newsletter
The school newsletter will now be handed out to the youngest child in the family each fortnight on Friday in Homeroom unless you have requested to receive the Newsletter by Email. If any new families would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter via email please give your email address to our staff in the office and you will be added to our list.
Instrumental Music Program
This week the Mercy Instrumental Program commenced with 56 students participating from Mercy Regional College and St Patrick's Primary School. This year we are delighted to offer tuition in the following areas:
- Piano
- Woodwind
- Guitar
- Percussion
- Voice

After extensive advertising the College has been able to assemble a very talented group of Instrumental Teachers and I take this opportunity of welcoming them to the Mercy community. This year the teachers of the instrumental program are:
- Mrs Helen Bourke – Piano
- Ms Wendy Goyan – Voice
- Mr Peter Sharp – Guitar
- Mr Alex Francis – Guitar
- Mrs Michelle Mackinnon – Piano and Flute

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Maria Russell for her organisation and co-ordination of this important performing arts program. I look forward to attending the instrumental performance evening towards the end of Semester 1 to see how our students have advanced.

Coming Events

Sunday 24th February
- Presentation Ball Training

Monday 25th February
- PTFA Meeting 7:30pm McAuley Campus

Wednesday 27th February
- Yr 8 Camp commences
- Presentation Ball Training

Friday 29th February
- Yr 8 Camp concludes

Saturday 1st March
- WYD Youth Summit – Ballarat

Sunday 2nd March
- WYD Youth Summit – Ballarat
- Presentation Ball Training

Monday 3rd March
- SCHOOL PHOTOS

Wednesday 5th March
- Presentation Ball Training

Friday 7th March
- Commencement Mass and Official Opening of New and Refurbished Buildings – 10.00am

Monday 10th March
- Labour Day Holiday

Wednesday 12th March
- MRC Athletics
- Presentation Ball Training

Thursday 13th March
- HCSN Meeting – O’Keeffe Campus
- Year 6 Transition Day1 – O’Keeffe Campus
- Outdoor Education Camp

Friday 14th March
- Outdoor Education Camp

Monday 17th March
- PTFA Meeting – 7:30pm O’Keeffe Campus

Tuesday 18th March
- Board AGM @ 7:30pm

Thursday 20th March
- Holy Thursday
- Term 1 Concludes
- Interim Reports mailed out

Friday 21st March
- Good Friday

Sunday 23rd March
- Easter Sunday

ANDREW WATSON
PRINCIPAL

From The Business Manager
Martin Ellul

Just a reminder to parents that if you wish to sign up to pay your fees by either Direct Debit or Credit Card Authorisation your form was due into the office by Friday 21st February. If you have not yet returned your form we will accept forms up until Monday 25th February.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

Deductions will commence on Thursday 28th February for both of these payment plans and continue for 9 months until 28th October.
Mercy Awards

VCE (Yr 11 & 12) Mercy Award

Tom Collins for his leadership, on the Year 12 Retreat, in helping with the music at the campfire concert.

Middle School (Yr 9 & 10) Mercy Award

Oscar Cavarsan for being very responsible in introducing one of the new instrumental teachers to the O’Keeffe Campus on Maria Russell’s behalf.

Junior School (Yr 7 & 8) Mercy Award

Thomas Brett for his enthusiastic approach to cleaning dishes on the Year 7 Portland Camp.

Year 7 Camp Report

Michael Clements

The Year 7 camp started on a gloomy day. The fears of rain, however, did little to dampen the spirits of 68 very excited, very new Mercy Regional College students. Port Fairy was our first stop. All students experienced first hand the history of ship wrecks in the area, some were lucky enough to pull in a fish at the same time. Back on the bus and we were off to Portland, our final destination.

Once set up at our accommodation it was off for a swim and a slide at the local Aquatic Centre. Two hours later, a tired group, we bussed back to our accommodation for dinner, some games and finally bed. All students, to their credit, slept well which was great considering the length of the walk they were challenged with the following morning. The 9 km walk along breathtaking views, over fifty meter cliffs, was completed by all with enthusiasm. Lunch in Cape Bridgewater was followed by a stop at the Portland Discovery Centre. A great day was topped off with a swim and slide at the Aquatic Centre, a magnificent dinner and a movie.

Day three’s itinerary consisted of a trip to the Codrington Wind Farm, lunch at the ‘big slide’ in Yambuk and home.

To all who attended the camp thanks very much and well done.
**MRC Swimming Sports 2008**

On Friday 8th February in cool conditions and in front of a large crowd Mercy Regional College held its annual Swimming Sports at the Camperdown Swimming Pool. Many swimmers achieved excellent times in the various events.

The 2008 Swimming Sports will be remembered as one of the closest contested in many years. Ryan eventually won by 22 points that gave them their first win for at least 10 years.

**Final Results**

Ryan - 1054  
Tindley - 1032  
Markey - 996.5  
Frayne - 934.5

Four students broke records on the day with all four breaking multiple records, which was a fantastic effort. These students were Liam Darcy (33m Freestyle, 33m Backstroke, 33m Breaststroke), Kayla Spicer (33m Freestyle, 33m Backstroke, 33m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle), Dylan Lee (33m Freestyle, 33m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle), Marley Binder (33m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle).

The age group champions thoroughly deserved their award, as they were consistent throughout the day and in many different types of events.

**These students were:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U/13</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Kayla Spicer</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Liam Darcy</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/14</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Amy Gaut</td>
<td>Frayne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Dylan Lee</td>
<td>Frayne</td>
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<tr>
<td>U/15</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Ellie Kenna</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>James Devlin</td>
<td>Markey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/16</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Megan Bullen (tie)</td>
<td>Frayne</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Lauren Carlin (tie)</td>
<td>Markey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/17</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Katie Milbourne</td>
<td>Tindley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Xavier Darcy</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>U/21</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Marley Binder</td>
<td>Markey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Stephen O'Connor</td>
<td>Tindley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Wellbeing Coordinator  
Kerin Glennen

Thank you to those parents who have supported the "shared clothes box" and donated uniform items of clothing that their son / daughter no longer needs. If a family has any unwanted items of our uniform that they may wish to donate to this annotative you can leave the clothing at either campus.

Thank you for your support, with this project.

From the Family Support Person  
Chris Moloney

Hello & welcome to all school families both existing and new for 2008! Just a few lines to let you know what I’m up to in my role as Family Support Person. My role is to provide support to the parents and students in the Hampden Catholic Schools Network, which covers St Thomas’ Terang, St Colman’s Mortlake, St Patrick’s Camperdown and Mercy Regional College Camperdown and Noorat Campuses.

The support includes contact to ease the transition time from Kindergarten to Prep and Grade 6 to Year 7 and to all families new and established in the schools. As a school parent I understand there are often questions regarding school activities, social events, curriculum, and school procedures that can be puzzling. I will endeavor to source answers or put you in touch with someone who can help.

In the coming weeks I hope to run a ‘Parenting Preps’ at St Patrick’s and then a ‘Parenting Teenagers’ soon after.

A new addition to the Parent Library is Michael Carr-Gregg’s book called REAL WIRED CHILD. This book covers what parents need to know about kids on-line. There are also books available for borrowing on bullying and surviving adolescents, secrets to happy children, and raising real people. To borrow any of these books please ring me on 55922017 or leave a message through your school and I will get the book to you. Borrowing is for up to three weeks and we have multiple copies of the books.

From the Director of Learning and Teaching – Careers Report  
Mrs. Lisa Pope

The Age VCE and Careers Expo 2008 - 11th - 13th April 2008 at Caulfield Racecourse
Find out more about the expo in “The Expo Visitor Guide” appearing in The Age on Monday 7th April 2008 or visit www.education.theage.com.au

$10.00 admission includes all seminars and a copy of The Age (admission valid for three days). The time is between 10am -5pm. This expo has been attended by several Mercy families in the past and the feedback is always good.

La Trobe University

Experience La Trobe Bendigo - 12th March 2008
Experience La Trobe Bundooora - 1st July 2008
Talk & tour Bundooora - 10th July 2008
Year 10 VCE Expo and Information evening Bundooora - 30th July 2008

Western District Employment Access
Apprentice Boiler Maker & Welder(Camperdown)

1st Year Apprentice required to work for a fabrication company in Camperdown, you will be required to learn all aspects of steel fabrication including welding, cutting, grinding, labouring and other various duties. You must be reliable, punctual and willing to work. Previous experience with hand tools is preferred and an interest in metal fabrication would be an advantage. Apprentice Wages apply.

Dairy Farmhand - School Based Traineeship Close to Colac Area

There is currently a position for a school based traineeship for a Dairy Farmer Close to the Colac area. The employer is looking to train a successful applicant in all areas of dairy farming, from calf rearing to handling cattle, tractor work, cropping, and milking etc. Applicants applying must have a genuine interest in the Dairy Farming Industry.

Enquires regarding either of these positions, please contact Mandy Parker Western District Employment Access on 5231 3411.

Tax File Numbers

Any student wishing to obtain a Tax File Number through the College can obtain a Tax File Number Application or Enquiry for a Secondary School Student form from the office.

Forms will be sent to the ATO on 29th February.

Work Placement

Could all students currently out on Work Placement please make sure you have new Work Place Learning forms signed and submitted for 2008.

Forms are available from the office.
From the Director of Learning and Teaching
Mrs. Lisa Pope

Work Experience
Congratulations to all our Year Ten students who participated in work experience last week. I am sure over the coming weeks we will hear more about the experiences of our students in the work force. A big thank you to all of the employers that took the time to teach our students industry skills and a special thank you to Maureen Adeney and Wayne Walsh for the numerous hours of preparation they put into this program to ensure it is a success. Finally, thank you to all of the parents who rearrange their routines to help assist their children in exposing them to life in the work force. In coming newsletter articles we hope to share some of the wonderful opportunities our students experienced.

Below are a few photos of some of our students out on Work Experience.

[Images of students: Lucy Keough at Banana Splits child care centre, Matthew O’Bryan at Prossers Panel Beating, Taylor Harlock at St. Patrick’s Primary School, Xavier Gstrein at Cobb Loaf Café, Jordan Clarke at Murray Fry Amcal Pharmacy, Alexandra Harry at Offshore Surf ‘n’ Skate]
We travelled to the Grampians Retreat at the back of Dunkeld for our three day Year Twelve retreat. The emphasis of the retreat was learning to know yourself, building resilience, setting goals for the future and examining where faith fits in a modern life. Leadership in the warm-up games certainly demonstrated the potential of a lot of our students as did the trust games with the raw eggs. Possibly there are some trust issues that still need to be worked through. The importance of family and friends as a way of building resilience was emphasised as was looking at where we come from and how that will influence our future. Fun things like the Op Shop formal and the camp fire sing-along were great group activities and showed the talent we have in this great group of Year Twelves although their taste in dress ups for the formal needs some rethinking. The class liturgy produced a table cloth to be used at the end of the year for the Graduation. It was a very enjoyable retreat, especially since we were with a terrific bunch of young adults, so a thank you to the Year Twelves for their sharing and inclusiveness and a very big thank you to staff who so generously gave up family time to be on retreat; Lisa Pope, Jenny Phillips, Lachie Lee, James Castles and Dean Ludeman, plus the twenty four hour visit by Kerin Glennen and Andrew Watson. Without such dedicated staff such activities can’t be run.
Once again, the Year 11 retreat provided a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to engage in a range of valuable experiences. I would encourage parents to talk to the students about what actually took place and their impressions of the various sessions that were held.

The retreat program reflected the spirit of the whole school approach to faith development and the holistic development of the MRC student. The theme of the retreat was:

“Sharing Our Story: The search for meaning and identity.”

Sessions were conducted in the whole group for one hour where a speaker would present their own story followed by questions from the group. Students would then move into homeroom groups with their teachers. Group activities were incorporated into the program as a means of drawing students into a sense of teamwork and trust. The formal dinner and the dance which followed were highlights which enabled students to adopt a more serious yet socially enjoyable attitude to one another and to staff. The students dressed up very well and they all looked gorgeous and conducted themselves in an excellent manner. Overall the students demonstrated a real engagement with not only the more appealing and entertaining aspects of the program but also the prayerful and contemplative components. The evening meditation, the scripture readings and the spiritual aspects of the retreat were very well received. I would like to thank all the students for sharing in the process of growing and becoming aware of others so fully. I wish also to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by the staff members. Each one gave of their own experience in action and in the way they spoke to the students. The value of these experiences for our students can never be underestimated and is one of which Mercy Regional College should be extremely proud. I would like to thank all the staff who attended for their enormous effort; Wayne Walsh, Simon Horan, Kerin Glennen, Daniel Beard, Kellie Wilson and Leanne Carpenter.
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<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 28</td>
<td>FEB 4</td>
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<td>JAN 29</td>
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<td>JAN 30</td>
<td>FEB 6</td>
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<td>JAN 31 ROSE</td>
<td>FEB 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 1 EMMA SARLE</td>
<td>FEB 8 ROSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 11 ROSE</td>
<td>FEB 18 LORETTO MILBOURNE</td>
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<td>FEB 12 CHRIS MOLONEY</td>
<td>FEB 19 INGRID BAXTER</td>
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<td>FEB 13 CATHERINE KRYBOLDER</td>
<td>FEB 20 CAROLINE NASH</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 14 ROSE</td>
<td>FEB 21 JANET DEVLIN</td>
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<td>FEB 15 ROSE</td>
<td>FEB 22 ANDREA HENRY</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 25 MONICA MAHONY</td>
<td>MARCH 3 TANIA CATLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 26 JILL SONNETT</td>
<td>MARCH 4 MAUREEN KENNA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANNI DAFFY</td>
<td>DONNA BAXTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 27 ANGE CUNNINGHAM</td>
<td>MARCH 5 CHEROLYN BULLEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANDY HOWARD</td>
<td>MARCH 6 ANDREA MOLONEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 28 COLLEEN O'CONNOR</td>
<td>MARCH 7 LEANNE FIELD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 29 BERNADETTE PLACE</td>
<td>MARCH 8 ANGE ABSALOM</td>
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<td>MARCH 10 LABOUR DAY</td>
<td>MARCH 17 ANGE ABSALOM</td>
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<td>MARCH 11 KATHRYN MOLONEY</td>
<td>MARCH 18 ANNIE O'SULLIVAN</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MARCH 19 BRONIE MOLONEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 13 TRACEY HARTY</td>
<td>MARCH 20 TRACEY HICKEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 14 MICHELLE EVANS</td>
<td>MARCH 21 HELEN ROSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Price</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Cobb loaf café pies</td>
<td>2.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken pies</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasties</td>
<td>2.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sausage rolls</td>
<td>1.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nibble pies</td>
<td>1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini ham &amp; pineapple pizzas</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steamed dim sims</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot dogs (bread)</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot dogs (roll)</td>
<td>2.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toasted sandwiches (ham &amp; cheese or chicken &amp; cheese)</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasagne or spaghetti bolognese</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focaccia (chicken or ham) sml $2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup (Term 2 and 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROLLS &amp; SANDWICHES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad rolls/sandwiches with (chicken or ham)</td>
<td>3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad rolls/sandwiches no meat</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat rolls/sandwiches</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg or egg and lettuce rolls/sandwiches</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUIT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh fruit salad terms 1 &amp; 4 only on fridays</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAKES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donuts (small)/homemade hedgehog</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donuts (large) pink/choc</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muffins choc chip/apple</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee scroll</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRINKS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big M's (small) chocolate/strawberry/iced coffee</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big M's (large)</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit box varieties</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quench mineral water (Cola, Orange, portello, blue)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft drink - can (only diet varieties)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft drink - bottle (only diet varieties)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled water</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresha orange/apple juice</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playwater</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipples milk choc or coffee</td>
<td>1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNACKS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All chips/CC's/twisties</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutella</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter menthols/soothers</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jelly in a cup with lid &amp; spoon</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen yoghurt strawberry/party cups (dixie)</td>
<td>1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen fruit tubes</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icy pole varieties 70C ice mony choc/straw</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana boppers/Choc fudge</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jupiter bar</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer roll/nougat honeylog</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smartie cone</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milo ice cream in a cup</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milo ice cream on a stick</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frosty fruits</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifesavers</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Notices

- Terang / Mortlake Junior Football – training will commence on Wed 5th March at 4.30pm at the Terang Recreation Reserve for U 12’s U 14’s & U 16’s. For further details please phone Frank O’Connor on 0419 594 534.

- If you wish to nominate for the Colac Representative Netball Team enquiries can be made to Chris Neal on 0400 870 071.

- Cobden Football/Netball Club will host a Fun Triathlon at Lake Bullen Merri on Sat 15th March for entry forms / program and further information you can ring 0427 952 055.

- Terang Junior Basketball 1st Season 2008 registrations are being taken for further information please contact the Terang Stadium on 5592 1747.

- Interested in joining the “Saver Plus” program run by Colac Area Health. This is an ANZ & Brotherhood of St. Laurence initiative with the Victorian Government. Saver plus gives participants $1 for every $1 you save over 10-18 months [up to $1000]. To qualify you require a Health Care/Pension Card, be in regular paid employment, have a child enrolled in school and / or you are studying or completing a traineeship or apprenticeship. You need to be over 18 and live in the Colac Otway or Corangamite Shire. For further details please contact Julie Barrow at Colac Area Health on 5232 5369.
At the beginning of each school year, a letter is sent to the parents of all students enrolled in the Catholic primary and secondary schools of the Diocese of Ballarat. The purpose of the letter is to keep all parents in touch with developments in Catholic education in the Diocese.

This year’s letter begins with a message from the Bishop of Ballarat, Bishop Peter Connors. Bishop Connors writes about diocesan preparations for World Youth Day which will be held in Sydney in July.

The Director of Religious Education, Dr Liam Davison, writes about the place of religious education in the Catholic schools of the Diocese and in particular the implementation of the diocesan RE program *Awakenings*.

The Director of Catholic Education, Mr Larry Burn, discusses some of the current projects, developments and plans for our Catholic schools during 2008.

This annual letter reaches the parents of every Catholic school student in the Diocese.

We hope it will inform and enlighten you about the work of Catholic education across our Diocese, as we say *from the Murray to the Sea*.

Message from Most Rev Peter Connors

*Bishop of Ballarat*

A special memory in the story of Catholic education in our Diocese will be the welcome given to the World Youth Day Cross and Icon in October 2007. Thousands of students along with their teachers and families were generous and enthusiastic in greeting these symbols of our Catholic life and tradition.

In July 2008, the eyes of the Catholic World will be focussed on the celebration of World Youth Day in Sydney. I encourage as many as you as possible to come to Sydney for what promises to be a wonderful moment of grace and renewal.

The theme chosen for World Youth Day, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses” is worthy of prayerful reflection by all who are involved in Catholic Education throughout this year. We all need to take hold of the dignity and the power that was given to us on the day of our Baptism. That is the essential reason for the existence of our Catholic Schools.

Prior to and after the celebrations in Sydney from 15th till 20th July, our Diocese will host a visit from hundreds of pilgrims from all parts of the world. I am confident that you will be most generous in making them welcome and allowing them to experience the life and vitality of our Catholic schools.

*Bishop Peter Connors*

*Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat*
Message from Larry Burn
Director of Catholic Education

Dear Parents of children in Catholic schools,

Welcome to the 2008 school year. I especially welcome families who have enrolled their children in Catholic schools for the first time.

Education in Australia

Education is one of the most important tasks of a nation. It is entirely appropriate to expect that every Australian child will receive an excellent education. For this to occur, the whole community needs to maintain a high level of commitment to education. In this regard it was pleasing to see the extent to which education was emphasised during the recent federal election.

The new Rudd Government is pointing to the need for an education revolution in Australia. This is good news as the world becomes more complex and the task of teachers and others involved in education becomes more demanding.

The Church has always placed a high priority on education, especially for the young. In Australia, this priority has led to the establishment of primary and secondary schools across the country. Over 20% of Australian children are educated in a Catholic school.

Catholic education in the Ballarat Diocese looks forward to working with the new government as it implements its plans for education in the coming months and years.

Strategic Plan for Catholic Education

During 2008 we will be developing a new Strategic Plan for Catholic Education. Our current strategic plan concludes this year. It is fortuitous and appropriate that the development of a plan for the next three to five years will be undertaken at a time when there promises to be much energy given to education at the national level.

The development of the new strategic plan will involve people from across the Diocese. You will hear more about it in the coming months. While no doubt several issues will emerge, it is clear at this early stage that the plan will need to include:

- Awakenings – the Diocesan Religious Education Program
- School empowerment framework – building on the pilot program of 2007
- Maintaining and improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy
- Education for environmental sustainability as we learn to deal with global warming
- Principals and teachers – recruitment and formation of leaders for our Catholic schools in the future.

Catholic Schools for the 21st Century

Catholic schools have changed a lot over the past twenty years. Perhaps the most visible change is that they are no longer staffed exclusively by religious sisters and brothers. Schools have also responded to the social and cultural changes which have taken place in Australia over the past fifty years. While the fundamental role of schools has remained the same, education has become far more complex and demanding on students, teachers and families.

These changes have led to many questions about the role of Catholic schools in the 21st century. As we confront these questions in the Ballarat Diocese, we have the added complication of our rural and regional location and all of the issues which geography brings for us.

What is clear is that we remain committed to seeing Catholic schools as a vital part of the mission of the Church. Our schools will continue to teach students that God loves them and calls them to live the Gospel way of life. It is important that we work together in partnership, especially with the parents of our students, to make this mission a reality in our world today.

One of the marked changes in the last couple of decades is that families from other Christian communities have enrolled their children in Catholic schools. Our schools welcome all who seek a gospel-based education. We hope that you will find that the values which underpin Catholic schools fit well with the values you want for your children.
A New School in Ballarat

After more than two years of planning, Emmaus Catholic Primary School opens its doors in Mt Clear this year. Emmaus will begin in temporary buildings on land owned by the Sisters of Mercy adjacent to Damascus College. It will move to its permanent buildings on Geelong Road before the end of the year. The founding Principal, Mr Brendan Meher will begin with one teacher, Jacqui Vanderkley and 21 students.

Emmaus is the first new primary school to open in the Diocese for over ten years, the last being Lumen Christi Primary School in Delacombe.

We welcome the pioneering students and their parents to the newest school community in the Diocese.

Building in Ballarat Diocese

The Australian Government supports the capital needs of schools through the Capital Grants Program and the Improving Our Schools Program. Every school in the Diocese has received some funding from these programs over the past two years. Some of this funding has been substantial and supported both the improvement and addition of facilities in both primary and secondary schools across the Diocese. Some of the schools to benefit from substantial grants have been:

- St Joseph's College, Mildura – development of the former Bendigo Bank Centre as a major College facility for performing arts and sport.
- Ballarat Primary Schools – several of the primary schools in the city of Ballarat have received grants which have allowed for substantial upgrades and additions. These schools have been well overdue for these developments.
- Relocations in Dennington and Hamilton – planning is well in hand for these two schools to be re-located to new sites over the next couple of years. The two parish communities are to be congratulated on taking a decision which will result in new schools built for 21st century education.

While we are pleased to acknowledge the contribution of the Australian Government to these projects, every project has also required a local contribution from the school and in some cases from the parish where this is possible. It is important to acknowledge that local communities continue to provide substantial financial support for the building and renovation of Catholic schools.

Welfare Needs of Schools

Schools have increasingly been asked to develop strategies to support students and their families in the welfare area. This need has been recognised in recent times by the Australian Government through the establishment of the chaplaincy program which will begin in a number of our schools this year.

The Victorian Government has provided increased funds to Catholic schools over the past three years specifically for the welfare needs of students and families. All schools are required to report annually to the State Government on how they have used the funds.

Some of the strategies adopted by one of the schools in the Ballarat Diocese have included:

- Employment of a Family Liaison Officer
- Active After School activities program
- Healthy Canteens Programs
- The Seasons Program – a program to assist children affected by loss or bereavement
- Peaceful School Day Programs

And so we begin the 2008 school year. I pray that God will bless all of us as we work together for the education of young people in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Ballarat.

I pray that God will bless you and your family during this year.

Yours sincerely,

Larry Burn
Director of Catholic Education
Diocese of Ballarat
Message from Liam Davison
Director of Religious Education

Dear Parents

In his remarks overleaf, the Director of Catholic Education drew attention to some of the changes that have occurred in Catholic education since many of you were students in Catholic schools yourselves. One of the areas in which these changes are evident is in the provision of Religious Education. In 2005, after an extensive process of research and consultation, Bishop Peter mandated the Awakenings Religious Education Curriculum for all schools in the Ballarat diocese as a response to the broad changes in culture and society, and in the Church itself referred to by Mr Burn. It is worth quoting the Awakenings Core Document in this context:

"Yet Catholic schools are still central to the mission and work of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat today, and to the life-quality of students and their families. Inspired and governed by the message and person of Jesus Christ, and committed to the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of each person, they provide education of the highest quality in their communities. In line with the self-understanding of the Church, they are welcoming to all who share their educational philosophy. Through their distinctive educational style, Catholic schools make an irreplaceable contribution to the intellectual, ethical and spiritual well-being of their own community and of Australian society." (Awakenings Core Document p 16)

One of the opportunities and challenges facing us today as Catholic people is how to be true to our tradition while at the same time being inclusive. Hospitality has always been a defining characteristic of any genuinely Christian community but how do we offer hospitality to others while maintaining the very strength of that characteristic?

The Core Document goes on to explore the quality of a distinctively Catholic educational style:

A Catholic educational style, therefore,...articulates and celebrates the bonds of connectedness within all reality, human, non-human and divine, and engages the human person in that network of relationships. It also seeks to develop in learners the cognitive, affective and spiritual skills needed to 'read' our personal and collective experience within the narrative horizon of the Judeo-Christian worldview, and so to make personal meaning of human experience. (Awakenings Core Document p 18)

Classroom Religious Education takes its place within this distinctive environment. It explores the knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary for thinking intelligently and acting responsibly in response to the Christian interpretation of reality.

A long held understanding of the contribution of Catholic schools to the growth and development of young people is that parents are the primary educators of their children and that they seek the assistance and support of schools in discharging this God-given responsibility. Teachers are well aware of the privileged role they occupy as collaborators with parents, within the setting of a faith community, in the provision of effective Catholic education to the children of the diocese. It is timely, as we commence a new year, for us all to commit ourselves afresh to this work. It is also appropriate for us as teachers and parents, to review the quality of our own witness in faith to the children in our care and to ensure the consistency of that witness at school and at home.

May God richly bless each family and each school community throughout this year!

Liam G Davison
Director of Religious Education
This has been a momentous and historic week in the history of our nation with our Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, saying sorry to the Stolen Generations of indigenous Australians for the profound pain and suffering inflicted on them by the laws, policies and practices of successive Australian governments.

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat joins with the Prime Minister in saying sorry to you, our indigenous people. Through its missions, especially in central and remote Australia, and its orphanages and children’s homes – two of which operated in the Ballarat Diocese until the late 1970s – we were no less complicit than the government in causing the profound pain, grief and loss experienced by you, the Stolen Generations.

We were part of that era that, not only stole children from their parents, but then separated them from their brothers and sisters, effectively decimating their families. Many of you only learned in recent years that you had brothers and sisters.

As a Church we say sorry to you, the children of the Stolen Generations, who were taken to the children’s homes that the Church ran here in the Ballarat Diocese. We say sorry for the part we played in creating the profound pain you must have experienced in the separation from your parents, brothers, sisters and extended family members. We say sorry for the grief and loss you experienced when later searching for family members, you found they had died.

As a Diocese and a Church we join with the Prime Minister in becoming part of his new future of “mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility” for and with you, our indigenous people. We are committed to walking with you on the road to equality and reconciliation. We are very conscious that saying sorry is only the beginning.

Bishop Peter Connors.
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

David Beaver.
Director, Centacare, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Inc.

Maree Harris.
Convenor, Social Justice Reference Group.