School News

School 150th Birthday
2017 is the big birthday year but the planning is commencing. Does anyone have any old photos of the school and the grounds that we may borrow? Please contact Jeanette Kalinski at the school on either Monday or Wednesday if you can help us out. 5789 1234

Earn and Learn—Thank you
We would like to thank everyone for the generous support shown to our school over the weeks of the Earn & Learn Program. We filled 301 sheets of stickers to send in for validation. An amazing effort for a small school.

School Council has approved a school run Playgroup for the Darraweit Guim community which will operate in the bluestone classroom on Wednesday mornings, commencing on a date to be advised. Bronwyn Kolotelo will be the co-ordinator. Further information will be available on the school website under 'parent information' when all details are finalised, or give the school a call on 5789 1234.

In the last week of term our students enjoyed an educational experience in the Life Education Van with the students from Bolinda Primary School, who came to visit for the day. Lunch was 'make it yourself' salad sandwiches. We hope everyone enjoyed the school holiday period and look forward to a busy term 4.

Tennis Club—Annual General Meeting
Monday 12th October 10am
Unfortunately the committee has had to change their meetings to held during the day, if anybody is interested in coming along to have a say, ask a question, or better still join the committee please come along. We will even be providing morning tea.

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Spring working bee and BBQ lunch
Sunday 25th October
from 10am—2pm
Please come along and give us a hand, we can only keep costs of using the hall low if we don’t have to pay too much for maintenance.

Speaking of not paying too much. Need any plumbing done. You might like to consider Rob Laidlaw plumbing for your next plumbing job.

Rob has recently replaced the toilets at the hall for a remarkably tiny price. He was able to get many of the fittings donated and he did the work for us for free.

Thank you very much Rob.
Happy Birthday in October to Ava Lutter 7th

Bookclub
Wednesday 21st October
10:00am

This month: The Last Testament by Sam Bourne. A new high-concept religious conspiracy-theory thriller set against the backdrop of the world’s bitterest conflict.

Next month: Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone by JK Rowling. It needs no introduction. Love it or hate it come along and discuss what I think is a masterpiece of imagination!

We will discuss the book, and chat about this and that, and maybe you could come along just to suggest a book we may try next time? The new time worked well for all so we are going with it. Come along to the tennis club and, if nothing else, have a cup of tea and a chat.

It’s Walk to School Month

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is supporting local schools and families to get active this October as part of Walk to School month. Walk to School encourages families to walk to and from school to build healthy habits for life. Even if you live a long way from school or have limited time, perhaps you could drive part of the way to school and walk the rest.

How you can get involved
If your child’s school is registered for Walk to School month, your child’s teacher can help children record their walks using classroom calendars or via the Walk to School website.

If your school isn’t participating, students can register on the Walk to School website or app and start tracking their own walks.

With some great prizes up for grabs, and plenty of fun competitions for students during October, Walk to School is a free, easy and fun way for kids get the 60 minutes of exercise they need each day.

Find out more at www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au
2016 Australia Day Award nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Australian Day awards, which include the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Achievement Award, Community Event Award and Arts Ambassador.

Each year, Council likes to recognise and celebrate remarkable people who make outstanding contributions to our local communities.

If you would like to nominate someone, complete an online nomination form at mrsc.vic.gov.au/australiaday by Monday 9 November 2015. Copies of nomination forms are also available at Council's customer service centres, or phone 5422 0320 or email mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony to be held on Australia Day, Tuesday 26 January 2016 at the Kyneton Town Hall.

Maintaining roadsides

Have you ever wanted grass slashed, weeds treated, fallen or overhanging branches removed from a roadside? Perhaps you’ve been concerned about fire danger, driver safety, or the general appearance of a roadside?

In large rural areas like the Macedon Ranges, maintaining and protecting 1,700km of roadsides can be complex. Council needs to find the right balance between making roads safe for drivers, preventing fires from starting on roadsides, protecting the natural environment and complying with native vegetation regulations.

Appearance and biodiversity

Council regularly inspects roads to ensure clear and safe passage for vehicles by removing fallen branches and foliage that encroach on roads, and slash or prune vegetation for visibility. Each road is assigned a priority that determines the frequency of inspections.

To protect biodiversity, Council conducts weed control and occasional revegetation on roadsides, and works with environmental groups and partner agencies to manage high conservation roadsides. Mowing or removing vegetation can reduce the habitat available for native animals, spread grassy weeds and reduce plant diversity. Also, native vegetation regulations dictate what Council can and can’t do on rural roadsides.

Roadsides and fire risk

Fires start on roadsides due to hot vehicle exhausts, mechanical failures and collisions. Council slashes roadsides to reduce the chances of these incidents resulting in a fire.

Typically 80% of traffic uses 20% of our roads. It makes sense to limit the cost to ratepayers by slashing these high use roads as a priority.

The best way to protect your property is to maintain the area immediately around your home. Leaving early, well before the flames arrive is the safest option on high risk fire days.

Report an issue on roadsides

VicRoads manages roadsides along freeways and major roads between townships. Council manages all other roadsides in the shire.

To report an issue with a roadside in the shire, contact either VicRoads on 131 171 or Macedon Ranges Shire Council on 5422 0333.

2015 Seniors Festival: October is your time to celebrate

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is supporting a range of social events throughout October as part of the 2015 Victorian Seniors Festival.

Several local groups and clubs are offering ‘Come and Try’ days where seniors will be encouraged to try everything from bowls and book clubs to scrabble and singing. There is also the opportunity to find out more about volunteering in the shire, and to meet the friendly members of local clubs such as the University of the Third Age (U3A) and Probus.

For details of local events, phone 5422 0258 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/seniors or seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

Special offer: free classes at Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre

As part of the 2015 Victorian Seniors Festival, seniors can enjoy the following classes for free during October:

- Gentle Aerobics
- Heartmoves
- Gentle Aqua
- Strength for Health

For more information or to book, contact Karyn on 5421 147 or email ksacrec@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Register Your Burn-off

Since the BFF the approaching fire season has generated a bit of interest in cleaning up properties, a laudable concept. Unfortunately, this has generated a lot of false alarms turnouts for our and other brigades.

Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation is generally permitted outside the Fire Danger Period, but local laws on burn-offs can apply year-round.

Check with your local council before lighting up.


Before burning off:

- Check and follow local regulations or laws set down by CFA or your local council
- Notify neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn
- Notify the ESTA on 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
- Check the fuel moisture conditions
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material
- Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

Register your burn-off:

All burn-offs should be registered with ESTA on 1800 668 511.

- Please provide the following information about your burn-off when registering:
  - Location
  - Date and expected start and finish times
  - Estimated size
  - What you intend to burn