Triumph at the swimming sports

Isaac celebrates his swim. Photo by Jemimah Yr 8
Faithful Education

When I was 4 years old I knew I was going to be a teacher. I used any opportunity I could to direct and instruct. And in those days, my dolls and teddy bears were happy to ‘listen’ and ‘learn’. 29 years on and not much has changed, I still know I am meant to be a teacher. I revel in opportunities to guide and instruct. But I have traded in the dolls and teddy bears for more ‘interactive’ models.

I believe that all of life belongs to God and everything that I do is worship to him. By using this as the lens through which I view the world, I am able to contemplate the fact that teaching and leading is not just a job for me, it is a calling. God has called me to be a teacher, and also gifted me to be a leader. I want to remain faithful to the task, for which he has called me; to teach and also to lead. And so in faith I step out of the comfort of my classroom and into my new role as Assistant Principal. As part of the process of applying for the role of Assistant Principal, I was asked to consider what my vision would be for this community.

My worldview, which is shaped by my experiences, my faith, reading of the Word, my relationship with God, being part of the MECS learning community and a passion for seeing each person come to see their own worth and value through the eyes of a God who loves them, has helped to drive my vision for the MECS Secondary School community...

Faithfulness in Education

As a Christian leader I want my vision for faithfulness in education to reflect my desire to see that in all things, despite our circumstances, we are faithful to our Lord, giving glory and honour to Him. So, despite the requirements of the National Curriculum, VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) and other external pressures, we will remain ‘faithful’ to our calling as a school to be set apart and be a light in this world, equipping our students for service in His Kingdom. To be seeking the Kingdom of God in education.

Faithfulness is more than just meeting deadlines and working at our best, it is also about how we respond to God’s calling and the values that we put into education.

Faithfulness includes:
- Having the right values
- Caring for the interests of others
- Having integrity
- Developing God-given gifts
- Obeying God’s commands
- Passing on what you learn

Faithful Learning

One area of school culture that I am excited to partner in and continue to encourage is that of a Positive Learning Community (PLC).

An aspect of developing a PLC that most excites me is the idea of the shift in focus from ‘teaching’ to ‘learning’. It is important that we don’t get too clouded by the pressures to just ‘get through curriculum’ but also remain dedicated to our desire to see students learn effectively.

A PLC is one where we are all learners - parents, teachers and students alike. It is a culture where learning is modelled by staff; we explicitly show our willingness to engage the process of learning. It will need to have a strong focus on each one of us being ‘active life-long learners’. I wish to foster an environment that encourages curiosity and openness. I am excited by the potential for extension and enrichment programs that increase student engagement, as well as continuing to increase our capacity to support and enable students who struggle.

I strongly believe that in order for students to understand our content, we first need to understand our students.

Faithful Discipline

My vision for faithfulness in education also includes faithful discipline.

As a Secondary Section we have, and will continue to look at what this means. We are considering how grace, boundaries and differentiation are all important elements of faithful discipline. We are growing in our capacity to offer strong boundaries, teach responsibility and guide pastorally.

This year in the Secondary School we are taking a more restorative approach to our detention system. Detentions are year level specific, with time given to pastorally guide our students. This process allows for acknowledgement, responsibility and restoration to occur.

Faithful Leadership

Whilst student leaders have been a part of the MECS culture for a long time, the vision I have for leadership is to broaden the horizons, where leaders are able to use and develop their leadership potential. Students will be given opportunities to have input into the community in a variety of ways and will be seen by their peers as an example of faithful learners.

I am excited by how God will use me in the years ahead to serve Him. My hope and prayer is that you will join with me in creating a learning culture that seeks to honour God; a learning culture that recognises the uniqueness of each student, and that you will support our Secondary School community in prayer as we strive to Seek the Kingdom of God in Education.

Karissa
Assistant Principal - Secondary

School Photo Day Monday 16 March

School photo order form envelopes went home last week. Family photo envelopes are available in the office for anyone wanting to have a family photo. Payments must be made either online or envelopes returned to the office by Friday March 13.
**SKETCHER’S**

Visit of Cr Maria McCarthy – Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council

On Monday, the recently-elected Mayor of our local Council, Cr Maria McCarthy visited our school. We were proud to tell her something of our school's history and introduce her to Christian Education. She went on a short tour of our Primary school and Kindergarten and was impressed to hear about our pleasing enrolment numbers for the next few years. We look forward to her visiting us again in the future. James Merlino, the now Minister for Education, is also coming to visit in a couple of weeks’ time. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet face-to-face with politicians from all levels of government and for them to see the great learning community that exists here at MECS.

**FOCUS On... Australian Curriculum**

What is the Australian Curriculum?

The Australian Curriculum is a set of national standards designed to ensure that Australian schools are kept accountable in what they are teaching and how they are progressing students. The Australian Curriculum outlines the learning content and the achievement standards for each subject area. There are nine subject areas which include: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education, Languages, and Work Studies.

Who is responsible for developing and designing the Australian Curriculum?

ACARA (The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) has been directed by the Australian Government to develop and implement the curriculum. Some subject areas, such as Mathematics, English, Science, History and Geography have been completed and are already being used in schools. Other subject areas are in various stages of development, or have yet to be endorsed. ACARA claims that this curriculum will “equip all young Australians with the essential skills, knowledge and capabilities to thrive and compete in a globalised world and information rich workplaces of the current century.”

Does MECS teach the Australian Curriculum?

Yes. We are currently in the process of ensuring we are abiding by the requirements of the Australian Curriculum, while still maintaining (and promoting) a Biblically centered approach to our curriculum. MECS teachers carefully discern and critique the worldviews and values embedded in the national curriculum. The vision of MECS - to seek the Kingdom of God in education, is still very much at the forefront of our teaching and learning program. We are thoughtfully working with the requirements of ACARA to ensure we do not lose our distinct approach to Christian education. While the Australian Curriculum informs our curriculum design, it does not direct it.

For more information, you can visit www.australiancurriculum.edu.au or www.acara.edu.au, or you can email me at jstok@mecs.vic.edu.au.

**SCOOP**

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

One of the highlights of the MECS calendar is Grandparents and Special Friends Day which was on today in our Primary school! Every classroom was abuzz with chatter and laughter as over 300 visitors came to support our younger students. It is so lovely to see the pride in our students as they ‘show off’ their school to their loved ones. I am also impressed at the effort that the grandparents and special friends make to get here and be part of this special day. It was a great morning.

Middle School Camps

It’s a much quieter place when all our Middle School students are away on their camps. I’m sure if you are a parent of a middle-schooler, your home is that much quieter as well! Our Year 9s are spending the week exploring the city, whilst our Year 7-8s are enjoying a range of experiences at Clifford Park Scout Camp. We look forward to hearing about all their adventures in next week’s newsletter.

Changes to Parent Teacher Interviews

As you would know we are changing some of the arrangements for our upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews. The most significant changes occur in the Senior School who will now be meeting in the library for subject specific interviews with individual teachers. With a number of our teachers now teaching in the middle and senior schools, this change will enable us to make sure that each family can meet with all the relevant teachers and get specific feedback on each subject. This is just a trial arrangement so we would welcome your feedback after the interviews. The interview booking system is now ‘open’ so please get in quickly to book your preferred times.

Visit of Cr Maria McCarthy – Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council

The Board have been busy hosting a number of dinners over the last week. Last Friday, a lovely welcome was given to over 100 of our new parents at the Chirnside Park Country Club. The purpose of the New Parent Dinner is to welcome parents into our community and to let them know about some of the key aspects of the school and the role of the Association. Then on Tuesday night before the Board meeting, the Board met with new staff and their partners, to also welcome them into our community. We thank the Board for their desire to be part of these events and to ensure that everyone finds their place here at MECS.

New Parent Dinner and New Staff Dinner

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MECS Notes

Parent Teacher Meetings
Parents of Prep to Year 12 students should have received an email or letter late last week outlining the details and logon procedures for accessing PTO, our online booking facility for parent teacher meetings. If you have not received this information, please contact the main office immediately. If your high school aged child has a PSG instead of a parent teacher meeting, you will hear directly from the Ed Support team to make a time.

Meeting times are as follows
Primary & Middle School:
Wed 11 March (3:45-6pm);
Mon 16 March (3:45-6pm) &
Thurs 19 March (3:45-9pm)
Senior School:
Mon 16 March (3:45-9pm) &
Thurs 19 March (3:45-9pm)

Annual Medical Emergency Update
This week, parents of Prep-Year 12 students have been sent the annual medical emergency update letter which is usually conducted during Term 4. Due to a new school management system, we are utilising this update to ensure we have your correct details and to update important parent and student data required by the Federal government. Please read the instructions carefully and return the necessary forms to the office by next Wednesday, March 11.

Corrie
Admin Support

Community Relations News from Amanda Steele
Over the Christmas holidays I felt that the Lord was stirring my heart for something new. During this time I prayed for the Lord’s guidance and direction, which is now clear. I have made the big decision to finish my time at MECS as a Community Relations Officer after 11 ½ years, on Thursday April 30.

I have absolutely loved my role and the MECS community, but I am now ready for the next chapter of excitement. The Lord is leading me into new opportunities in the business world where I will be concentrating on my website design business.

I have loved my time at MECS. I have made many wonderful friends and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. I will continue to pray for the school, staff and families and MECS will always remain a very special place to me. A saying I think about is this, ‘You can take a person out of MECS, but you can’t take MECS out of a person.’

Lots of love and hugs to you all.

Amanda
Community Relations Officer
**Friends of MECS**

**Community Cook Off day Thursday March 12**

We would love donations of the following goods for our cook off day. We plan to make about 75 meals for our community freezer. Please bring donations to the main office over the next 3 weeks. If you would like to be a part of the cook off please email Nicole Nyhouse nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au.

We would love more volunteers from 9am-1.30pm to help.

**Donations required:**

- 1kg diced bacon
- 20kg mince
- 10kg/100 sausages
- 60 eggs
- 3kg grated cheese
- 1kg butter
- 30 onions
- 5kg carrots
- 10kg potatoes
- 5kg zucchini
- 3 whole cabbages
- 10 jars pasta sauce eg. Dolmio
- 4 x fruit chutney
- 4 x frozen vegetables
- 1 x tomato sauce
- 1 x worceshire sauce
- 6 x chicken noodle soup sachet
- 2 x french onion soup mix

Donations of money towards missing elements would be helpful too.

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**Primary GT - Growth Mindset**

This year our Primary focus is on ‘Thinking about our Thinking’. We kicked this off with the introduction of our two mascots ‘Think 1 and Think 2’ (AKA Ben and Ali) making their first appearances in our last GT. This week SPUDs ran their GT on ‘Mindset’. They taught us that a FIXED mindset stops us growing and moving forward. It includes thoughts like: ‘This it too hard. I can’t do it. I’m dumb. I’ll never get it’. A GROWTH mindset moves us forward toward our goals. It includes thoughts such as: ‘If I keep trying I might get there’, ‘If I try some new strategies, that might help’, ‘I love a challenge!’ and, the key word ‘YET’, ‘I can’t do it YET rather than ‘I can’t do it, fullstop’.

In a nutshell, mindset is what thoughts we have when we face a challenge. It embraces struggles as a challenge and failures and mistakes as learning that helps us move forward.

We look forward to learning more about mindsets and ways that we can think about our thinking as the year progresses!

*Melissa*

Assistant Primary Coordinator & Senior Primary Coordinator

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**MECS Welcomes its New parents**

Last Friday at Chirnside Park Country Club over 100 new parents, board members and some staff enjoyed a wonderful night of getting to know each other and enjoying some good food and better conversation.

Our New Parent Dinner is just one of the many ways we wish to cultivate partnership with parents on their child’s educational journey.

We are really glad that so many of our new parents came - you have begun the journey of being woven into the fabric of MECS.

*Amanda*

Community Relations Officer

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**MECS Notes**

**Employment Opportunity**

**Administrative Assistant**

We have a 6 month position available for a part time Administrative Assistant in Community Relations. This position commences in mid-April 2015 and will conclude in mid-October 2015. The role is to support and complement the Community Relations Officer in their responsibility for community relationships in the school.

Please refer to the school website for application details.

*Dr Gerry B*

Administration Manager

**Sascha**

Former MECS student Sascha (VCE 2012) has been achieving significant success as a triathlon athlete over the past year. He has moved to Brisbane and since that time has been competing in the ‘Elite Men’s’ class both here and overseas. He has represented Australia in a number of international competitions in Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain and Singapore. He won two of two Spanish races (see photo) and in October last year won the U23 Men’s Adelaide OTU Duathlon Oceania Championships.

Sascha’s life in Brisbane includes studying for a double degree in Exercise Science/Business. He is studying part-time due to a very heavy training load of 20 to 35 hours a week. We warmly congratulate Sascha on his success and I look forward to saying “I taught that young man” when I see Sacha stand on the winner’s podium in the next Olympics. (www.triathlon.org/athletes/profile/39326/)

*Dr Roger F*

VCE Coordinator

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**MECS Welcomes its New parents**

**Detective Thought aka Jade & Captain Brainpower aka Isabelle**

*Board Member Eric with New Parents John and Sandra*
**MP Cooking**

This term in Middle Primary, we are studying the topic of ‘Food’ as part of our Core Studies. As well as learning about healthy eating habits and sources of food, Middle Primary’s have the opportunity to plan and prepare food to freeze and provide for homeless people that attend Community Meals run by New Community Ringwood. Throughout this term, on Thursday mornings, students are working in groups to create something balanced and tasty for this community. It has been an enjoyable experience for us, learning new skills in the kitchen and using our fresh produce from our MECS Creation Garden and eggs from our chooks.

*Justine*

*Middle Primary Teacher*

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**VCE Drama Excursions**

VCE Drama students have been out and about already this year. We’ve had a research excursion to the Immigration Museum to prepare for this year’s ensemble performances on ‘Leaving and Arriving’ and a Unit 3 theatre excursion to a performance entitled ‘Team of Life.’ This production was performed by professional dancers, Indigenous actors and recent immigrants. Playing football or soccer became a symbol for life and the performance explored the way that we all need to be a part of a team, with supporters and goals. The performance included sport, physical theatre, dance, dialogue and song.

At the Immigration Museum students investigated the contents of suitcases from different immigration eras and researched migrants’ stories. We also viewed a photographic exhibition on Performing Arts in Australia at the Victorian Arts Centre.

Next month we’re off to the city again to see another performance entitled ‘Reception: The Musical’. This cabaret comedy tells the story of a receptionist who finds joy in the manic world of customer service, stationery orders and thinking on her swivel chair!

*Marlene*

*SS Drama Teacher*

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**Suitcases for SS Drama**

Suitcases, of all shapes, sizes and eras are needed for our ensemble performance! Please contact Marlene Magee if you can donate or lend one.

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*Nelson & Riley with new friends*
Tribal Swimming Sports - Years 7-10

We managed to get another cold day sandwiched in between hot days for this year’s swimming carnival. Luckily at this time of year ‘cold’ is not really that cold, and we were in a protected spot at Belgrave Outdoor heated pool.

Unfortunately many students were not able to participate due to illness but those who could were enthusiastic – some went in many extra events to cover for those not able to compete. It is probably no surprise that Wirri tribe, which means ‘water’, were the overall winners. The tribe results were:

Wirri - 264
Walya - 157
Warlpa - 139
Warlu - 116

Some standout participants were Steph, Asher, Bethany, Cam, Jenna, Erica, Luke and Jess who won more than one first place. Well done.

Students who won their event (except for relays and novelty events) will compete next Thursday in the Interschool Swimming event at Waverley Pool, Monash Aquatic Centre.

Anne-Maree
Secondary Sports Coordinator
## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Term 1 Week 5: 2 Mar - 8 Mar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 2 - Fri 6 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Camp Week</td>
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<td><strong>Fri 6 March</strong></td>
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<td>SP Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<th>2015 Term 1 Week 6: 9 Mar - 15 Mar</th>
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<td><strong>Mon 9 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday - School Closed</td>
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<td><strong>Tues 10 March</strong></td>
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<td>JP Zoo Excursion</td>
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<td><strong>Wed 11 March</strong></td>
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<td>MP Swimming</td>
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<td><strong>Thur 12 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7-10 Interschool Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 13 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SS Connect Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
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<td>SP Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<th>2015 Term 1 Week 7: 16 Mar - 22 Mar</th>
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<td><strong>Mon 16 March</strong></td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT Meetings (see page 4 for times)</td>
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<td><strong>Tues 17 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3yo Kinder - Bluebirds Connect Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am Staffroom</td>
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<td>Preps Puppet Event</td>
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<td><strong>Thur 19 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3yo Kinder - Rosellas Connect Morning Tea</td>
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<td>9am Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT Meetings (see page 4 for times)</td>
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<td><strong>Sat 21 March</strong></td>
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<td>Working Bee with Morning Tea 8am-1pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>2015 Term 1 Week 8: 23 Mar - 29 Mar</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 23 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 7 and 8 Volleyball</td>
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<td>Primary GT with MPW, 9am PUMP Room</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tues 24 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MP Victoria Market Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wed 25 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>JP Dress Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Seminar A Main Staffroom 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri 27 March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<th>2015 Term 2 Week 1: 13 April - 19 April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mon 13 April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Day Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom</td>
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### MECS COMMUNITY NOTICES

MECS does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Mount Evelyn Christian School for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

#### Modem for Sale


![Netgear Modem](image)

#### Get Active Sports

Get Active Sports run sports programs for 3 to 8 year olds on weekend mornings. Soccer for Juniors held at Bimbadeen Heights Primary School Gym, Hayrick Lane, Mooroolbark. Ideal for beginners.

Starts Saturday 18 April:
- 3 year olds - 9.00am to 9.45am
- 4 year olds - 9.45am to 10.30am
- 5 and 6 year olds - 10.30am to 11.15am
- 7 and 8 year olds - 11.15am to 12.00pm

Cost $90 for 6 weekly sessions and a soccer ball for you to keep.

To secure your place, you must register by one of the following methods:
- Email - rego@getactivesports.com.au
- Phone - 1300 772 106
- www.getactivesports.com.au Hayrick Lane

#### Take off Weight Naturally

Rosemont TOWN (Take Off Weight Naturally) Club now in Mount Evelyn.

Membership open to men and women. Club meets at 10.45 – 12.15 Tuesday morning in the Mount Evelyn RSL Hall, 49 Birmingham Road. Joining fee $46.50 followed by $5.00 per week.

Contact person Joan on 9737 0397 or rosemont.townclub@gmail.com, or TOWN Club Head Office’s website, www.townclubs.com.au.

#### Car for Sale

Great first car, Hyundai Accent, very sporty looking and in very good condition. 2001 manual with low kms. A very good handling car including driver’s airbag. It has had new tyres and a new exhaust. Price $3500 ono. Phone Sandy on 0408 919 396.

#### Flat in Monbulk for Rent

Large 2 bedroom, open plan unit with a patio area. 5 minute walk to Main Street shops & public transport. Available April 12 onwards. $285 pw.

Contact Julian: 0421 247 987 or julian@nuanceimage.com.au

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#### Celebrate Cultural Diversity Week

Monday March 16, 10–11:30am.
Sherbrooke Family & Children’s Centre, 1455 Burwood Hwy, Upwey.

Come along to a FREE morning of play for families and children to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism in the Yarra Ranges.

Activities include children’s activities, displays, interactive workshops, music, dance, arts & crafts, food and more!

More information 1300 368 333 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

### Notices sent home this week and on Website


- Careers Newsletter No 2
- ICT Agreement Reminder
- SS Connect Morning Tea Invite

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**Newsletter deadline is 11am Tuesday on published week.**

Email articles (images attached as jpg) to the Newsletter Office