Welcome

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our 13th edition of ReConnect.

This edition we are looking back at 2008 – a year where a number of significant events happened! MECS celebrated its 35th Anniversary; the national governing body that MECS is part of - Christian Parent Controlled Schools (CPCS) changed its name to Christian Education National (CEN) (Narelle’s editorial is focussed on that change); the school employed its first welfare officer/counsellor, Lisa Eno, thanks to new government funding; NAPLAN testing started; and the Manual Arts complex was built and opened.

Also in this edition is an article from Gerry Beimers, MECS Administration Manager, looking at the growth plans for the primary school. Our kindergarten continues to be blessed with strong enrolments, which flow on into the Primary School. Here are some comparisons to give you an idea of the growth we are seeing: in 2008 we had 1 Prep class of 24 students, this year we have 40 Foundation (previously known as Prep) students, in 2 classes. In 2018 we will have 45 Foundation students in 2 classes; in 2019 we plan to add a third Foundation class, as we have 50 students enrolled. In 2018 we are adding a fourth Junior Primary class to accommodate increasing numbers and bring our class sizes down. We praise God for this strong growth and are thankful for parents who are choosing to partner with us from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

On a sad note, in March this year long time MECS community member Bill Dubbeld passed away. The family have written a tribute to new families come into our community and a new generation of parents into our schools, the founders had to make many decisions beyond the classroom: Who will appoint our teachers? Who will take over from them. They believed God wanted them, as parents, to be active in the education of their children. They didn’t believe the government, or even the church, was responsible before God for raising and training their children. They desired an education, and community, which was consistent with that they believed.

To help make this type of education a reality they formed an association of Christian parents. This was a new community sharing a vision of Christian education that proactively discipless young people. They fought opposition, worked, and gave generously in time and money.

As we recognise the year that CPCS became CEN, we celebrate that our schools, including MECS, are still being faithful to the original vision that our founding families were inspired by and committed to! We are also grateful that in particular, our Association at MECS is continuing to grow and flourish as new families come into our community and ‘catch the vision’ of what Christian education is all about. It is our present Association members who continue the legacy of what has gone before.

Narelle
MECS Principal

Adapted from an article in Nurture Magazine,
Page 4, June 2016
Infrastructure Report

MECS is Growing

“The changes since I came here are incredible! The school has grown and changed so much, but still feels like the MECS community I knew as a student. It is great to see so many more options available to the kids and great facilities as well. I always dreamed of a gym at MECS, but couldn’t have imagined one that amazing!” This is the sort of wow comment we often hear when past students visit MECS.

The awareness of physical changes at the school is going to be exceptional for those of you who rarely visit here, although for those of us serving and learning here each day we tend not to notice. In October 2015, the Association approved in principle a medium term plan to grow the school’s infrastructure in response to the wonderful enrolment demand that we are experiencing. It is especially gratifying to see young families embrace Christian education here at MECS.

The demand for enrolment has of course called for some wise planning of buildings as we seek to protect the things that make the MECS community what it is. The plan will eventually result in three Foundation classes (previously known as Prep) and four classes at each of the Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Senior Primary level. The configuration of the buildings will create communal spaces for each level (like the Kindergarten’s Piazza, if you have seen that). In this way our buildings will help us further create community. See diagram below for the plans for the Middle Primary expansion.

Our architect has cleverly come up with building ‘footprints’ that will not reduce play space. In fact the Foundation and Junior Primary designs will create additional under cover play space. This will be fantastic for both wet winter days and scorching summer days. In other areas we will be using space taken up by disabled access ramps and replacing them with outdoor lifts.

All of this thinking and planning shows us that the spaces and places our community learns in are changing shape. The principle that guides us in all of this is encapsulated in our thinking about Meaningful Structures in our Transformational Education book: “Structures such as student groupings, classes, spatial settings and buildings should be flexible to serve the needs of learning and the learner, and to promote the core understandings we have about education.”

Gerry (Class of ’79)
Administration Manager
**Past Student News**

**Congratulations Peter**

We were delighted to hear that Peter (Class of ‘09) was named winner of the Canon Australia Light Awards (April) chosen by Guy Sebastian. Since leaving school, Peter has been captured by the twin callings of photography and a desire to serve God's people in a pastoral capacity. I should also mention that he is an outstanding soccer player! Here is his winning image.

The theme for Canon’s competition was about showing stillness in a chaotic world. He named this image ‘Waiting on the world for change’ and here is an excerpt from his image description:

“I have been challenged the last couple of years on how we perceive and interact with the homeless, those in need, and by the stereotypes we create by thinking we are too busy, pretending to look the other way (ignorance is bliss), or judging what they might do with any money we give. I would be lying if I said I had not done all of these things. However I have taken on the personal challenge of breaking down these stereotypes and lies that prevent us from loving all those around us, not just those who are easy to love and love us back. I was inspired by a quote that says “If you judge people you have no time to love them” (usually attributed to Mother Teresa). I decided to begin treating people with the benefit of the doubt, by loving, listening and sharing stories with those we often perceive as less than us. Instead of just walking by, I love to sit down and share stories of life. It has completely changed my perspective on those who are struggling and how often their circumstances have been out of their hands. This is how this picture came about. I had stopped and had a chat to this fine gentleman named Shaun a number of times during my stay in London. He was gentle, kind and willing to share his life story with me. As hundreds rushed past after a long day at work, we shared stories about our childhood, family, those we have loved and lost, and the fragility of life. All it takes is a moment of stillness amongst the business of life to notice those around us, to notice those who are doing life tough and those who just need somebody to acknowledge their existence and share in their story.”

Please accept our warmest congratulations Peter. It is wonderful to see how you have brought the redeeming work of the Gospel to photography.

Dr Roger F  
VCE Coordinator

**Look Who Came to Visit!**

In August a group of students from Sattler Christian College in the Northern Territory, came for a week-long visit to Melbourne and used the MECS gym as a base after their long days exploring the city and surrounding areas.

The group was headed up by Allan (past MECS parent, teacher and Assistant Principal). Allan is currently the Principal at Sattler Christian College and lives in Darwin with his wife Jude, who is the Principal at Nungalinya College in Darwin.

Nicole  
Community Relations

**Contact Us**

We would love to hear from any past students wanting to reconnect.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive ReConnect either by post or email, please let us know by sending us your contact details and email address.

We would also love to hear what you are doing now and even see a current photo of you and/or your family.

You can contact the school by going to the 'Past Student' page on the MECS website: www.mecs.vic.edu.au, by calling 9738 6000 or by emailing us at reconnect@mecs.vic.edu.au.

Nicole  
Community Relations
Recent Celebratory Moments

Mikayla Antoinette was born to Nikkela (Class of ’07) and Brendan on 17 April 2015.

Robyn (Class of ’00) married Chris at Gum Gully Farm on June 11, 2016.

Paisley Ingrid Nicola was born to Jody Ann (Class of ’92) and Steve on November 24, 2015. Little sister to Archer and Jarvis.

Congratulations to Peter (Class of ’13) and Arielle, who became engaged on Saturday Aug 27.

Amber (Class of ’09) married Shane on June 3, 2016.

MECS students among the wedding party included Marella (Class of ’05), Ruby (Class of ’09) and Renae (Class of ’09).

Send your celebratory news to us!
reconnect@meCS.vic.edu.au
Focus on

MECS

New Faces

Thursday 21 February 2008

A big welcome to staff joining us this year

Say Hi

New Faces

Steve
Proprietary & Maintenance

Karen
SS Cafe Manager

Gary
Curriculum Documentation Project Coordinator

Yvonne
Math Teacher

Lisa
Student Welfare Officer

A big welcome to staff joining us this year

Colin & Primary Students

Martin & Stewart - past MECS Principals

Music Recital

Parents and Friends Group

35th Anniversary

Carols on the Green

Music Recital

Prep Class of 2008

School Camp

35th Anniversary

35th Anniversary

Say Hi

School Camp

35th Anniversary

Carols on the Green

Focus on

Mount E Evelyn Christian School ReConnect - Connecting the Community
Sorry (MECS Matters 14 Feb, 2008)

On Wednesday morning (Feb 13, 2008) when the Prime Minister gave the ‘Sorry’ speech in Federal Parliament, our students listened either on radio or watched on TV. This was a very important occasion in the life of our nation and it has been a wonderful opportunity for teachers to talk about what has happened to the indigenous peoples of Australia, the mistakes and wrongs that have occurred and the ways in which wrongs can be made right.

When I was nine attending a Sydney primary school, I watched Neil Armstrong land on the moon on TV. If you were at school on that day you’ll no doubt remember. I wonder whether this occasion will become one of those special days?

Martin, Principal MECS
We have a wonderful group of parents who serve on the MECS Board. In this edition of ReConnect we’d like to introduce you to one of our newest Board members, Kirsty. As well we report on the AGM from May this year.

**Board Profile - Kirsty**

I am a committed Christian of 32 years. My family includes my husband John and our daughter Alysha. We are members of Crossway Baptist Church. Alysha has just started at MECS and is in Year 7 in Mrs Nicky Joiner’s class.

Who was your favourite teacher?

My grade four teacher was probably my favourite. He was one of only two male teachers I had in primary school. I remember him as being a very caring person. He owned a farm in Maldon and I remember enjoying the time he took the whole class there for an excursion.

What was your first car?

My first car was a white 1980 Toyota Corolla. I got it when it was eight years old and I still remember its rego as ARZ-935.

What would be your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be a trip to Antarctica. I would love to see all the wildlife and the spectacular scenery. Also, it would mean that I had then visited all of the seven continents on earth.

What is your background?

I have a finance background of over 20 years and I have been working as a freelance writer for the last seven years.

How long have you been on the Board and what is your role?

I have been on the Board since the May Association AGM. At the moment I have no particular role on the board but I know as I become more familiar with everything I will get involved when and where I can. I joined the Board to make a valuable contribution to the life and health of the school community.

**Association AGM Report**

In May we held our Association Annual General Meeting, with around 65 current parents, current staff, past students, long term members and even some founding members attending.

The meeting was a lovely celebration of the rich Association history, going back to the 1950s. We heard from Keith and Helen (founding members of the Association and past parents), Jane (long term Association Member, staff member, parent and now Grandparent at MECS), and Simone (current parent) who all spoke about their history with the Association and why membership was important to them.

The business of the meeting included a Board report from Board member Bretlyn; the Principal’s report from Narelle and a Finance report from Gerry. We thanked Petra for the time she served on the Board, and voted current Board members Ian, Louise and James to serve another term. We welcomed Kirsty as a new Board member, and our new staff and some new parents into Association membership: John and Kirsty, Richard and Heidi, Phil and Naomi and Brad and Rachel.

We had a photo tribute to Bill, who recently passed away; Bill and Henny are founding members of our Association (members since 1964!) and have stayed involved as Association members, parents, and grandparents at the school. It is founding families like the Dubbelds who have helped shape MECS into the school it is today.

**Association Membership**

If you would like to know more about Association Membership, please contact Nicole Nyhouse through the school office or email nnyhouse@mecs.vic.edu.au.
In memory of Bastiaan (Bill) Wilhelm Dubbeld
6 December 1934 - 18 April 2016

On Monday 18 April 2016 Dad spent the morning pottering in his garden and tending to his bees. He sat down in his favourite chair on the back verandah to have a drink, enjoying the beautiful autumn day, when he peacefully passed away to be with his Lord.

Dad had a gentle, loving heart for people. He was quick to embrace & accept people and slow to judge them. He was a godly man who had a deep love for God. Dad was a man of integrity who always reflected God’s love. This was clearly evident in how he dealt with people, how he ran his business and in everything he did and said. Dad’s generous spirit meant that he always made time for people, listening to their concerns and worries, and sought to bring out the very best in them.

Dad had a servant heart and was very community minded. He was heavily involved in helping set up and establish Mt Evelyn Christian School in the 1960s and early 1970s. Since that time Dad continued to be actively involved in the school, attending school fêtes in the 1960s & 1970s, many Association meetings, celebration days including the 25th, 30th & 40th Anniversary celebrations, helping open the Manual Arts building and attending 23 Grandparent Days!

Both Dad and Mum have been members of the Association since 1964 and four of their five children, Ian, Yvonne, Ed and Michael, attended MECS from 1973 – 1987. Their first grandchild started Preps at MECS in 1992 and 9 of their 14 grandchildren have attended MECS, 3 of whom are still current students. Since the opening of MECS in 1973 there has only been four years, from 1988 – 1991, when a child or grandchild from Bill and Henny Dubbeld has not been at the school.

The legacy continues as their first great grandchild plans to start kinder in 2020.

Yvonne (Class of ’82)

From the Archives
From the 2008 Annual Report

The Covenantal Values of the Association are a key part of the Governance Policies and School Development Plan. They are:

1. We underpin who we are and what we do with Biblical FOUNDATIONS.
2. We facilitate a lasting vision by building a strong and developing ASSOCIATION.
3. We partner with committed PARENTS to assist them in fulfilling their God-given responsibility for nurturing their children.
4. We achieve our mission through empowered LEADERSHIP and effective ORGANISATION.
5. We employ Christian STAFF who can effectively and wholeheartedly provide Christian Education.
6. We nurture and equip STUDENTS for a life of service.
7. We develop and implement effective Christian TEACHING and LEARNING practices and resources.
8. We employ prudent FINANCE and RESOURCE management practices to enable our mission.
9. We construct functional and high quality INFRASTRUCTURE that facilitates the educational process.
10. We seek to have a healthy, caring, connected COMMUNITY.
11. We live out the truth of the Kingdom of God in our EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS with the wider community.

Association
Association for Christian Education

EGM

Thursday 13 Oct

6.30pm - Dinner
7.30pm - Meeting Start

We will be meeting in the Year 9 Open Village Rooms
If you wish to come for dinner before the meeting please RSVP to the Office on 9736 6000

The Board will be presenting their strategic priorities for 2017-2019

All Welcome
Of the 39 students that were enrolled in the 2015 VCE program, 35 students applied to study at tertiary level. Of these 35, 33 students were successful in obtaining a first round offer place. Here are the placements and paths the students have taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Management (Deakin University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Information Technology (Degree) (Victoria University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reona</td>
<td>Nursing (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simone</td>
<td>Business (Victoria University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon</td>
<td>Building Design (RMIT University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ari</td>
<td>Arts (Psychology) (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Nursing (Australian Catholic University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Teacher Education-Primary (Australian Catholic University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy (Pass and Honours) (Australian Catholic University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Arts/Global Studies (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Working and planning on applying for the Police Force in the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn</td>
<td>Working Gap Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Arts/Science (Swinburne University of Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayley</td>
<td>Science (University Of Melbourne (The))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>Photography (Deakin University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>Diploma of Outdoor Recreation (With Guiding) (Holmesglen Institute)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>Arts (Victoria University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>Nursing (Box Hill Institute)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannan</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy (Honours) (Monash University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Teaching-Primary (Deakin University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Criminology (Deakin University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grayson</td>
<td>Nursing/Business Administration (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Science (Deakin University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire</td>
<td>Interior Design and Decoration (RMIT University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renae</td>
<td>Gap Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney</td>
<td>Teacher Education-Primary (Australian Catholic University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa</td>
<td>Animal Technology (Box Hill Institute) now transferring to QLD, details not yet known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikaela</td>
<td>Arts/Global Studies (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tani</td>
<td>Applied Public Health (Australian Catholic University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath</td>
<td>Games and Virtual Worlds (Programming) (Academy of Interactive Entertainment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Science (University Of Melbourne (The))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asha</td>
<td>Environments (University Of Melbourne (The)) now (University New South Wales)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay</td>
<td>Teaching/Exercise Science (Australian Catholic University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>Primary Teaching (Swinburne University of Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin</td>
<td>Chiropractic/Health Science (RMIT University)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua</td>
<td>Animal Technology (Box Hill Institute)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Gap Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren</td>
<td>Nursing (Deakin University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Worked for a carpenter, then a builder, now at Coles in Kilsyth.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
School Reunions

Would you like to catch up with your old classmates? We can assist you in organising a reunion. MECS will help you with finding people, distributing invites (we will cover the printing/postage costs) and you can even use one of the MECS rooms (if it is available).

Give Nicole a call on 9738 6000 or e-mail reconnect@mecs.vic.edu.au

Nicole
Community Relations
**Calendar**

**2016 Term 3 Week 10: 12 Sept - 18 Sept**

- **Thur 15 September**
  - Foundation Marvellous Materials Celebration

- **Fri 16 September**
  - Last Day Term 3 (usual school finish times)

**2016 Term 3 Holidays: 19 Sept - 9 Oct**

- **Mon 3 October**
  - Staff Retreat Day, Office closed

- **Mon - Wed 5 October**
  - Year 12 Practice Exams

- **Thur 6 - Fri 7 October**
  - Year 12 Intensives

**2016 Term 4 Week 1: 10 Oct - 16 Oct**

- **Mon 10 October**
  - First Day Term 4
  - Welcome Back Morning Tea 9am Staffroom

- **Tues 11 October**
  - JP Connect Morning Tea 8.45am Staffroom

- **Wed 12 October**
  - Cycle A Practice Hike
  - VCE Drama Solo Performances

- **Thur 13 October**
  - EGM 6.30pm Dinner, 7.30pm Meeting Starts

- **Fri 14 October**
  - Year 11 Formal

**Association EGM**

**Thursday 13 October**

**Term 4 PS GTs**

- Mondays 9am PUMP room on the following dates
  - Week 3, Monday 24 October
    - Education Supert Enrichment
  - Week 6, Monday 14 November
    - JP Bandicoots (Fiona Murray)
  - Week 8, Monday 14 November
    - MP Green (Naomi Campbell)
  - Parents and Friends Welcome

**Next Working Bee**

- Sat 22 October, 8am-1pm
  - with Morning Tea

*Contacts: cbishop@mecs.vic.edu.au* - www.mecs.vic.edu.au - 03 9738 6000 - 03 9738 6001 (fax) - Absent student: 03 9513 1561

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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.

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**Lost Property**

A reminder to please check the racks of lost property for your children’s belongings. We have accumulated plenty of clothes, hats, lunch boxes etc and it would be good if they went back to their owners. Those that are not collected by the end of term will go to the local Op shop. Please clearly label your children’s clothing. It makes our job so much easier!

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**Melinda Beimers**

**Lost Property Merchant**

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**Movie Days**

- ‘The Good Dinosaur’ Wed Sept 21 at 10.30am.

At Discovery Chrch, 89 Monbulk Road, Mount Evelyn, 9736 2323. Gold coin donation. Sausage sizzle and lollies for sale.

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**For Sale**

Women’s size 8 Denali hiking boots. Worn only for 2 hikes - good condition $50.

Girls purple/white bike 20” suit approx 8 year old - good condition $30.

Boys black bike 20” suit approx 8 year old - very good condition $50.

Susan 0417 390 042.

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**2 Rooms for Rent**

2 rooms have become available for 2 males to join 2 existing male housemates in a share house in Croydon.

- Month to month lease.
- Christian housemates.
- For enquiries, please contact: cbishop@mecs.vic.edu.au

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**Montrose CFA Open Day**

The Montrose CFA is hosting an open day on Sunday the 16th of October, 877-879 Mount Dandenong Road, 9am-3pm.

There will be a car rescue demonstration, BBQ, fire safety, kids activities and prizes.

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**SCYC Scorpions Basketball club**

SCYC Scorpions are now taking registrations for the summer season. Come play a great sport at a family friendly club.

For all mini ball (under 8) players your first season is free. For all new registrations you will receive a 50% discount for your second season if you contact Glenn. Email Glenn at scycscorpions@gmail.com.

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**Art Exhibition Invitation**

FLORILEGIUM: metaphors of damage, love & other concerns.

Works by Julian Distefano (former MECS teacher & parent), from September 17, 2016 at Five Ways Galleries, 1282 Mount Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama.

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**Apple Man**

The Apple Man is coming tomorrow - Friday Sept 16 and the following varieties will be available: Granny Smiths, Fuis, Royal Galas, Pink Ladies and Pears. Apples $10 a bag, Pears $8. Please put the correct money in an envelope with your order written on the front, and hand it into the office before 10.30am on Friday Sept 16.

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**Friends of MECS**

**Cook Off Day - Next term - Monday, October 17**

In order to help those in need in our community, we like to keep our freezer full of meals that we can offer. As a result we have been holding regular ‘Cook Off Days’ to fill our freezer. The next such day is on Monday Oct 17. If you are able to help with cooking on the day, donation of grocery items, or making a cash donation we would really appreciate your support.

- Items we need include - Worcestershire sauce, bread crumbs, tins of pineapple pieces, brown sugar, vinegar, tomato sauce, corn flour, tinned tomatoes, chutney, sultanas, arborio rice, large foil containers with lids and 1ltr plastic containers with lids (to freeze meals in).

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**Notice sent home this week and on Website**

  - Equal Opportunity Act Letters
  - Year 11 Legal Studies Notice
  - Canteen Menu Term 4