Year 12 Retreats

This year the Yr 12 cohort once again travelled to Howman’s Gap, above Mount Beauty, and to The Bright Chalet on the Wednesday 4th February, returning on Friday 6th February. This is a huge undertaking to organise so early in the term, involving approximately 20 staff and 140 students. I would like to congratulate in particular Mrs Anne O’Dwyer, the Year 12 Coordinator, and Mr Mick Grogan, The Senior Mini School Director for all their leadership and organisation of yet again a very successful beginning of the year for our Yr 12 students. The team of teachers at both retreats showed the importance of building and maintaining healthy, respectful relationships with the small groups of students in their care. Thanks also must go to the organizational work of Mrs Julie Oste and Mrs Joan Ellis for the preparation of resources for both retreats.

As usual at Galen Catholic College, the stars of the show were the students. They celebrated the Mass and engaged in the various activities wonderfully. The aim of the retreat is to allow students to reflect upon who they are, who they want be in the future and what goals they might set themselves, academically and personally for the year ahead. We believe students will only flourish as human beings if they allow personal reflection, mindfulness and engage in faith development opportunities such as the Yr 12 retreat. Thank you for enrolling such wonderful students at our College.

Written by Gerard Sullivan
Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity
Dear Parents and Guardians,

“Enjoy your year … find your passion … make a difference in the world.”

This was the essence of the message given to our Year 12 students by former Galen student, Eamon Halliday, who now works as a teacher of the deaf in a Melbourne school. The occasion was the 2015 Year 12 Jumper Presentation and 2014 VCE High Achievers night at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre last Wednesday evening.

At the same event, I also announced that the LKC Bursary for 2015 has been awarded to Angus Butler. The bursary provides $5,000 to the family of the recipient to help cover the costs of the first year of tertiary study for a Galen VCE High Achiever. It is provided by an anonymous benefactor whose children went through Galen some years ago, and is made in honour of the benefactor’s own late mother who had a passion for education.

Year 12 Retreat
Congratulations to all the Year 12 students for the way in which they participated in the Year 12 retreats at Bright Chalet and Howman’s Gap YMCA Camp in the first week of the year. The retreats offer all our senior students the opportunity to reflect on their lives, their aspirations, and their place in God’s universe. Thanks to all the staff who gave of their time and gave the sessions such value.

Year 7 Parents Welcome
Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend the Welcome Afternoon for parents of our new Year 7 students last Wednesday afternoon. I have been informed that the afternoon was very well attended. Parents were given the opportunity to explore the Parent portal, “PAM” – Parent Access Module that allows parents to see their child’s ongoing assessments and attendance records.

Parents Association
14 enthusiastic people last week attended the first Parents Association meeting for 2015. We discussed parent support of the BBQ at the swimming carnival this Thursday evening, considered some requests from school groups for funding, nominated a person for the Galen Board and inspected the new Year 9 sails and recreation area, provided through Parents Association Funds. Our next meeting will be 6:30pm on Tuesday March 24 in the Galen staff room: all welcome!

Good luck to all with the process of settling in to the school year!

Go well,

Bernard Neal
Principal

2015 Swimming Carnival
Thursday 19th February 4.00pm
at the Wangaratta Olympic Pool
The evening will conclude between 8.30 and 9.00pm
Come along, have some fun and support your house!

For the latest What’s On visit: www.galen.vic.edu.au
**Guest Author engages Year 9 English**

Year 9s at Galen had the opportunity to work with guest Author Scot Gardner on Monday 9th February. Students learnt about storytelling techniques and generally enjoyed his humorous presentation.

All year levels at Galen will be lucky enough to work with a variety of authors over the coming weeks as part of the school’s English program.

---

**Galen says ‘no way’ to bullying**

Galen Catholic College has officially registered for the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 20 March, 2015. Galen College students from Years 7 – 10 will receive a wristband which highlights the National Day of action against Bullying and Violence. The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is an initiative of all Australian education ministers and is a major activity for the Bullying. No Way! Team.

**Did you know?**

Did you know that Bullying. No Way! has produced a free downloadable app for schools, parents and students. The Take a Stand Together app for Apple iOS and Android devices keeps tips and advice about bullying close at hand.

For more info visit: www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
Year 12 students began the year formally at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, with their annual VCE/VCAL Jumper and Award Presentation evening last Wednesday.

Eamon Halliday a former Galen student, as special guest speaker delivered a very entertaining and engaging speech. His delivery was underpinned by the themes of being positive, balancing hard work with relaxation and seizing opportunities. He impressed upon the students that life has many twists and turns and ups and downs, and to be courageous in whatever you take on.

Students were also encouraged to focus on the importance of supporting one another on their journey throughout the year.

Prior to the presentation of the jumpers, the VCE academic awards for 2014 were presented, including the Dux for 2014, Demi Shale (in her absence). A special bursary was also presented to Angus Butler.

Additionally Abby Rickard received an award from Latrobe University for academic performance and contribution to the school community.

College Captains for 2015, were also officially announced. Successful candidates Aaron Taylor and Olivia Storer were both very honoured to be given the opportunity to represent Galen College as student leaders this year.

The start to the year has been terrific. Students have been keen to embrace their studies and participated enthusiastically in the retreats held last week.

Year 11 students will soon receive details about their upcoming Camp which will take place at Harrietville. It is important that the forms associated with this activity are completed and returned to school promptly, please.

### Important Dates:
- Swimming sports – Thursday Feb 19
- School Photos - Thursday Feb 19
- Opening Mass – Wednesday March 11
Galen students to host Trivia Night for needy school in Timor Leste

Eight senior students from Galen College will be hosting a Trivia Night to raise funds for a needy village school in Abafala, Timor Leste before they embark on an annual immersion trip next month.

“For every $10 we raise, we can help to provide building materials for the local Timorese builders to rebuild the school,” said Galen RE Domain Leader, Lyndel Petersen. “Not only are we assisting with the structural building, the money raised will also help provide teachers and enable the students to access education locally.”

“Our 2015 trip to Timor will be raising money to help fund Timorese students in order to provide them with new educational facilities such as desks and writing tools like pens, pencils and workbooks,” said Year 11 student Beth Cook. “We will also be teaching small groups of students who wish to further advance their English speaking abilities by coaching them on basic pronunciation and grammar.”

Fellow Year 11 student Jade Gibson also reinforced the importance of their cause, “We are not just raising money to send to Timor, we are going to actually make an impact on the Timorese by using our fundraised money and knowledge to educate and assist the kids of Timor.”

“There will be trivia prizes, a raffle and an auction of wonderful goodies on offer,” said Mrs Petersen. “People are also welcome to bring their own drinks and nibbles on the night or drinks can be purchased at bar prices. We’ll have a Coffee Barista available and supper will be provided. So come and have some fun, knowing that your contribution will help those in need.”

The Trivia Night will take place at St Patrick’s Parish Hall on Friday 27th February at 7pm. Tickets are $20 each and can be purchased from the main office at Galen College.

MittagundiOutdoorExperience

Mittagundi is an Outdoor Education Centre, created with the belief that young people have the ability to sustain a pioneer style farm.

The main purpose of Mittagundi is to provide programs for people between the ages of 14-17, on these programs you explore Victoria’s high country land. Multiple activities are offered at Mittagundi such as bushwalking, camping, abseiling off surrounding cliffs, rafting through the Mitta Mitta River.

The Mittagundi atmosphere is simple, carefree and honest. The main focus at Mittagundi is to guide young people on how to live in a simple environment. There’s no electricity, time, money or timetables instead you live in a pioneer style farm.

Mittagundi offers a 10-day program. You attend this program with the first two days spent hiking into the Mittagundi Centre with two Clydesdale horses, up to 22 young people and two Mittagundi staff. The next four days is spent at Mittagundi, doing activities such as abseiling, rafting and sustaining the farm ending with the hike out.

I highly recommend attending a Mittagundi program, it’s a life changing experience that you get so much out of. I’ve been on multiple programs and am going in March.

Written by Bronte Morrow

For more information, see the flyer in this edition of the newsletter or go to: www.mittagundi.org.au

Chloe Thrum, Lachlan Campbell, Harry Condon, Will Nolan, Jade Gibson, Noemi Brockoff, Beth Cook and Kate Saunders are hosting a trivia night to raise funds for a needy school in Timor Leste.
Welcome to a new year in the Middle School. In particular I would like to welcome the Year 9 group as they make their transition form the Junior School to the Middle School. We have several students for whom 2014 is their first year at Galen.

Coming into Year 9 we have Chelsi Bright, Scott Sloggett, Fletcher Ramage, Teniece Rouse, Jack Chambeyron, Bonnie Clements, Harry Skewes and Alex Race-Stelling. Commencing in Year 10 we have Gemma Gaul.

**Middle School Executive:**
Year 9 Coordinator is Miss Kelly Smith and Year 10 Coordinator is Liz Morrow. The Middle School Home Room Teachers are as follows:

- 9.1 Mr Laurie Burt
- 9.2 Mrs Elizabeth Holligan
- 9.3 Mr Ian Minns
- 9.4 Ms Ashlee Burke
- 9.5 Mr Tom Anson
- 9.6 Mr Rob Parsons
- 9.7 Ms Ren Seymour
- 9.8 Mrs Jenny Bromley & Mrs Mim Murray

- 10.1 Mr James Heath
- 10.2 Mrs Deb Doyle
- 10.3 Ms Jody Heath
- 10.4 Mr Shannon Murphy
- 10.5 James Bourke
- 10.6 Mrs Dannielle Bell & Mrs Liz Orton
- 10.7 Mr Brian Carr
- 10.8 Mrs Dannielle Bell & Mrs Liz Orton

Please contact the relevant person should you have any concerns or queries relative to the Middle School.

**Student Leaders 2014:**
The following students have been elected as Student Leaders for 2014 in the Middle School. These students will be the voice of the Middle School student body and they will participate in leadership activities throughout the year. As well as working with the YLC’s and the Directors these students will also work closely with Laurie Burt who is responsible for student leadership activities across the school.

**Year 9**
Bridie Nixon
Jasmine Carboon
Juliette Howard
Jack Roach
Jessie Gerrish
Billie Taylor
Georgia O’Keefe
Josh O’Donohue
Caleb Ramsay
Rhys McGauran
Sarah Lyons
Sarah Ashton
Hugh Tharratt
Bridget Cole

**Year 10**
Frances Watter
Jaymz Bright
Josh Bevacqua
Emma Gamble
Lucy Lee
Maddi Talarico
Adele Fletcher
Zoe Gephart
Claire Knox

**Uniform:**
Uniform to this point has been very good. Just a reminder that shoes must have black leather uppers. Canvas/cloth uppers do meet uniform requirements. Black socks are not permitted. Socks must be white. Hats should be carried at all times during recess and lunchtimes. When in the sun students are required to be wearing their hat. When in the shade they do not have to be wearing their hat.

Punctuality has also been very good. Remember that first bell goes at 8.45am and HR commences at 8.50am.

**Upcoming Dates**

**February**
- 18th Ash Wednesday
- 19th School Photos/Swimming Sports
- 20th Production Camp
- 21st Production Camp
- 23rd 9.4 Discovery Walk
- 24th 9.4 Discovery Walk
- 25th Injections 9 & 10
- 26th 9.3 Discovery Walk
- 27th 9.3 Discovery Walk

**March**
- 2-4 9.5 & 9.6 Adventure Camp
- 4-6 9.7 & 9.8 Adventure Camp
- 9th Labour Day Holiday
- 11th Opening Mass
- 12th Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Windsurfing
- 13th Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Windsurfing
- 16th Yr 10 Author – Justine Heazlewood
- 17th Yr 10 Author – Justine Heazlewood
- 18th Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Windsurfing
- 19th Yr 10 Outdoor Ed Windsurfing
- 26th Parent Teacher Evening
- 27th Parent Teacher Morning (Student Free Day)

Regards,

Rob Walker
Middle School Director
INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASEBALL?
The Wangaratta Baseball Softball Sports Club will be conducting lessons on how to play baseball and practice games starting in February 2015.

These games will aim at teaching boys and girls aged between 10 and 15 years with the hope of some of these kids forming a team to play in the Victorian Baseball League Junior Carnival, late in winter.

The cost to each player will be kept to a minimum (if not free) with the club supplying gloves to those who do not have their own.

If you are interested in learning how to play Baseball or you know someone that could be and would like more information please contact Kevin Pool on 5721 3315 or 0427 195 456.

Playing Baseball is great for your hand/eye co-ordination and the running of bases will help you keep fit!

WANGARATTA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
2015 AUTUMN COMPETITION
Muster Nights : 4th & 11th of March, Juniors 5:30 p.m. Seniors 7 p.m.
Free Come ’n’ Try, Learn, Registration and Grading.
Juniors Ages 7 to 15, All New and Past Players Welcomed.
Comp Starts : 18th of March, Juniors at 5:30 p.m. Seniors at 7 p.m.
Where: The Industrial Building, Wangaratta Showground. (First building on the left side as you enter the main gates).

For further information call
Robert (Seniors) : 0407228280,
Andrew (Juniors) : 0498954081

COROWA QUILTERS
Corowa Quilters will be holding an exciting quilt show in Corowa from Saturday 4th April to Sunday 5th April at St Mary’s School Hall, 201 – 207 Federation Avenue Corowa. Visitors can enjoy looking at a huge array of quilts made by local quilters in Corowa and surrounding areas. Morning and afternoon teas are available and visitors will also have the opportunity to take part in the raffle of a beautiful quilt, purchase craft items or browse through a range of quilting materials and accessories on sale. Corowa Search and Rescue will be this year’s beneficiary from the raffle. Admission is $5 and entry is from 10.00am to 4.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND
Invest in your most precious asset...
Your Marriage! Forget life’s tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together.
Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.
Starts 7pm on Friday, Ends 5pm Sunday.
Accommodation and all meals provided.
Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au www.wwme.org.au

DANCE CLASSES
• Social Ballroom Dance Classes
• Classical Ballet Classes
• Contemporary/Lyrical Dance
• Stretching & Conditioning classes
All ages welcome

Classes starting in Wangaratta on Monday 9th February 2015. Register your interest by emailing your details to: info@intencitydanceacademy.com.au

Learn from fully qualified and insured instructors chosen to teach the 2015 Galen College Debutante participants.
Classes run on Monday, Tuesday & Friday’s.

COROWA RUTHERGLEN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
The Corowa-Rutherford Junior Football Club is excited to announce its coaches for the 2015 season.

Terry Griffin will lead the Under 16s side, replacing Rob Black and Scott Wilson who took the side into the grand final in 2014.
Griffin has a strong junior coaching resume, having coached Auskick for many years and coaching the Under 14’s at Rutherglen.

Jeff Chandler, who played for North Melbourne between 1987-1992, will continue to provide the Under 14s with a wealth of knowledge, having also been involved in junior development for the AFL.

Darrell Bush will coach the under 12s side and brings with him an extensive coaching background, having coached Buraja and Coreen at the junior level.

The club will host a barbeque from 11am on Sunday, February 15 for previous and prospective players to meet the men in charge, while training dates will also be announced on the day.
Registration can also be completed online, or by visiting the club after 5.30pm on Friday, February 6 and 13.

The costs for the 2015 season is $120 per child. $100 for additional children in the same families for all junior grades.

MANSFIELD JUNIOR MOTORCYCLE CLUB COME AND TRY DAY
Sunday 22nd February 2015.
McCormack Park McCormack Lane, Merrijig (off School Lane)
Registration 8.30 a.m.
All new riders will receive a FREE annual recreational licence Valued at $100! We are a Junior Motorcycle Rider Development Club. Our aim is to help children learn the necessary skills in order to ride a dirt bike safely while having fun in a safe environment. We cater for ages 4 to 16 yrs. MMC is affiliated with Motorcycling Victoria (M.V) and operates under their regulations for Junior Riders. We have certified Motorcycling Victoria Coaches that provide free coaching on Club days

New comers are welcome to attend any of our club days and join in for the day or just come out and have a look!

Full details on web site:
www.mansfieldmc.com or Facebook

Or Contact:
Tania Allatt 0409 492 610
Euan Friday 0407 556 587
Simon Young: 0427 751 238

COROWA RUTHERGLEN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
The Corowa-Rutherford Junior Football Club is excited to announce its coaches for the 2015 season.

Terry Griffin will lead the Under 16s side, replacing Rob Black and Scott Wilson who took the side into the grand final in 2014.
Griffin has a strong junior coaching resume, having coached Auskick for many years and coaching the Under 14’s at Rutherglen.

Jeff Chandler, who played for North Melbourne between 1987-1992, will continue to provide the Under 14s with a wealth of knowledge, having also been involved in junior development for the AFL.

Darrell Bush will coach the under 12s side and brings with him an extensive coaching background, having coached Buraja and Coreen at the junior level.

The club will host a barbeque from 11am on Sunday, February 15 for previous and prospective players to meet the men in charge, while training dates will also be announced on the day.
Registration can also be completed online, or by visiting the club after 5.30pm on Friday, February 6 and 13.

The costs for the 2015 season is $120 per child. $100 for additional children in the same families for all junior grades.
Tom receives Victorian Junior Athlete of the Year award from Cycling Victoria

Year 11 student Tom McDonald recently received the Junior Athlete of the Year Award from Cycling Victoria. The award was presented on February 4th on the main stage at Federation Square. Tom is a talented athlete who has a scholarship from the Victorian Institute of Sport and has been nominated on the Australian Winning Edge (AWE) Athlete list for the Sport of Cycling. AWE is an initiative of the Australian Institute of Sport. We warmly congratulate Tom on his achievement and look forward to hearing of his further successes.

Reminders for Parents

The Parent Access Module
The Parent Access Module is available via Galen webpage http://www.galen.vic.edu.au under Quicklinks. For new parents in 2015, your username is your account number, located on your galen school fees account, and your password is your surname (the first letter is a capital and the remainder is in lower case. Eg: Smith. Existing parents login with their usual username and login.

Absences: All Day, Late to School, Leave Pass
Please email both your child’s homeroom teacher and the office. Teacher emails are: firstname.surname@galen.vic.edu.au
Office email is: admin-enquiry@galen.vic.edu.au

School Board
- Father Mike Pullar: Parish Priest
- Mark Williams: Board Chair
- Bernard Neal: Principal
- Phil Bretherton: CEO Representative
- Patrick Arcuri: DP - Staff Representative
- Anthony Batters: Staff Representative
- Suellen Loki: Parent
- Liz Nelson: Parent

Parents Association Executive
- President: Elizabeth Jolly
- Vice President: Julie James
- Karyn Howard: Secretary
- Karen Archer: Treasurer

The best way to contact Galen staff members direct is by email. All staff have email addresses which follow the formula: firstname.surname@galen.vic.edu.au

COMMENTS ON PAM
The nature of ongoing formative reporting means that comments about your son/daughter’s progress in their subjects will be made at various times throughout the course of the study, and will be made available to you via PAM. As a staff we have set dates for when there must at least be one update added this semester – these dates are listed below:

- Tuesday 10th March
- Monday 18th May
- Tuesday 16th June

Kind Regards,
Shaun Mason
Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching

Who’s Who at Galen

Leadership Team
- Bernard Neal: Principal
- Patrick Arcuri: Deputy Principal — Staff & Students
- Shaun Mason: Deputy Principal — Teaching & Learning
- Gerard Sullivan: Deputy Principal — Catholic Identity
- Dom Giannone: Business Manager
- Anthony Batters: Professional Development Co-ordinator
- Kylie Quin: Daily Organiser
- Mick Grogan: Senior School Director
- Rob Walker: Middle School Director
- Wendy Chuck: Junior School Director

Members of the Board and Parents Association can be contacted via the office on 03 5721 6322 or email: admin-enquiry@galen.vic.edu.au

Members who have email addresses which follow the formula: firstname.surname@galen.vic.edu.au

Newsletter enquiries can be emailed directly to the Publications & Promotions Officer: malcolm.webster@galen.vic.edu.au

Galen Catholic College
College Street, Wangaratta
PO Box 630 Wangaratta Vic 3676

Principal: Bernard Neal
Email: principal@galen.vic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5721 6322
Web: www.galen.vic.edu.au
Welcome to our Parent Access Module (PAM)

At Galen Catholic College we use a Learning Management System called SIMON. SIMON allows the College a central location for storing and processing information, including student assessment; attendance and behavioural tracking records.

Each subject has its own Learning Area where teachers will upload upcoming assessment and homework tasks, provide feedback, post grades and upload class resources for students to access. As a parent or guardian, you too have access to this information through the Parent Access Module (PAM)

PAM enables parents to access real time information about their children and their progress.

Accessing PAM
The Parent Access Module can be accessed via pam.galen.vic.edu.au or through a link on the Galen Catholic College homepage ‘Quick Links’ menu www.galen.vic.edu.au

For families new to Galen your initial login details are:

Username: Your Galen Catholic College Account Number
Password: Parent’s surname with a capital for the first letter. Eg Smith

Families with students already at the College will use their existing login details.
The PAM homepage is a central navigation point. On this page, you can view our College’s daily bulletin in the *Daily Messages* and any *Upcoming Events*. You will also have access to several common *Knowledge Banks* and *School Links*.

You will find your enrolled children on the right hand side under *Students*.

**Changing your password**

We strongly encourage you to change your password when first accessing PAM. To change your password, click the *My Settings* link found on the top tool bar and follow the prompts. Changing your password ensures privacy for you and your children.
Accessing student information
Clicking into a student profile will allow you to view further information.

The toolbar on the left hand side is your direct link to the selected student’s timetable, behavioural tracking and attendance records.

Clicking on Learning Areas enables you to view a summary of current Task Due Dates.
Clicking on *Display Learning Area Task Summary* allows you view a summary of assigned tasks across all subject areas, highlighting complete, active and overdue tasks. Clicking on the numbers indicated will provide you with more information on the individual task, including results and feedback comments for completed tasks.

**Timetabled Classes**

*(Click Subject for Task Results)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Homework Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Business Management (1BMG11A)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 English (1ENG11A)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Legal Studies (1LST11A)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Outdoor and Environment (1OED11A)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Religion and Society (1RSO11B)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 YET Sport and Recreation (1YSR11A)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 Homeroom (1HRM11F)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reports**

Mid‐semester and end of semester reports are accessible on PAM. These reports can be found by clicking on *Student Assessment and Reporting* found on the toolbar in each student profile.

Should you have any concerns or queries in accessing or using our Parent Access Module, please contact the Galen Catholic College main office on (03) 5721 6322.
Mittagundi was established over 35 years ago with a commitment to provide opportunities for young people from all walks of life to live and enjoy the challenges of a remote and simple lifestyle.

Each group of boys or girls, aged between 14-17 y/o, will spend 10 days in a beautiful part of Victoria’s high country: bushwalking, camping, abseiling from nearby cliffs, rafting the Mitta Mitta River and helping to run a pioneering style farm.

The atmosphere at Mittagundi is simple, honest and happy. There are no watches, no timetables, no money and no technology. Instead there is an opportunity for young people to live and work together in an environment where people matter more than anything else.
Could you be a permanent care parent?

There are a number of children supported by the Department of Health & Human Services who require a family for life as they are unable to live with their birth families. We are seeking committed and motivated people who would be interested in learning more about providing a permanent family for a child.

Assistance payments are made to the Permanent Care family to assist with the day to day expenses of caring for a child/young person. Assistance payments are considered to be a reimbursement for expenses and not an earned income.

We are also keen to speak with families who are particularly interested in caring for children up to the age of 10 years.

*Information sessions* are being held on:

*Tuesday 3*<sup>rd</sup> *March 2015 at 6:00pm*
Department of Human Services, 43-47 Rowan Street, **Wangaratta**

*Thursday 5*<sup>th</sup> *March 2015 at 6:00pm*
Department of Human Services, 163-167 Welsford Street, **Shepparton**

*For further information please contact:*
Adoption & Permanent Care Program
☎️: 5832 1559 or 5832 1713.
MORE ABOUT MITTAGUNDI
Mittagundi is a 400 acre property near the old gold mining town of Glen Valley, on the upper Mitta Mitta River.
Each fortnight a group of 24 boys or girls from varied backgrounds meet at the Albury or Bairnsdale railway station and are taken to the edge of the Bogon High Plains. It is a two day expedition into Mittagundi. The load of camping gear and food is shared between the group and a pack-horse.
Four days are spent at Mittagundi. While half the group are busy abseiling and white water rafting/sledding, the others stay to help run the farm. This includes milking the cows, baking bread, blacksmithing, building fences, making wooden items, helping tend the vegetable garden and orchard. Later the group will swap roles so that each person has a chance to try everything.
Mittagundi is much more than a holiday. It is a great experience with its share of hard work and frustrating moments. However things undertaken at Mittagundi usually end with a feeling of satisfaction and friendship.
At the end of the time at Mittagundi the group head back on up the track and over the High Plains, climbing on of Victoria’s highest mountains on the way.
It is a fitting end to a challenging and ultimately rewarding time in our high country.

WHO CAN GO ON A MITTAGUNDI COURSE?
Any young person aged between 14 and 17. Some are from the city and some from the country and all are drawn from different backgrounds. We also run courses for groups with special needs.

DO I NEED TO BE REALLY FIT OR EXPERIENCED?
No. You need no experience in the bush at all, and no special equipment. Some determination is far more important than being fit.

WHAT GEAR WILL I NEED?
All special hiking and camping gear is provided, including a sleeping bag and mat, hiking boots, back pack any gear for abseiling and rafting. You will receive a detailed list when you apply of essential personal items that you will need to bring.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?
The full cost of the 10 days is $425. If you are unemployed or cannot raise this amount, you can apply for a sponsored or partly sponsored position. In addition you will need to pay the cost of getting to and from the Albury or Bairnsdale Railway station which is the start and finishing point of every course.

HOW CAN I HELP MITTAGUNDI?
Mittagundi is an enterprising and worthwhile venture. It is succeeding in its purpose through determination. A strong message from Mittagundi to young people is that rewards require large measures of effort. Thus it is self-financed and deliberately does not rely on public funding. Donations are gratefully accepted from individuals, charitable trusts and corporations.

WINTER COURSES
Mittagundi runs its usual 10 day courses from September to May. During the winter six, seven and nine day ski touring courses are run for school groups. Please contact our Business Manager for details.

SPONSORSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON COURSES
Donation of a course fee provides an opportunity for a young person who would not otherwise be able to attend Mittagundi. Please contact our Business Manager if you can help.

CONTACT US FOR BOOKINGS
info@mittagundi.org.au or on 0467 678 818