

# The Angel

Wednesday 4th May 2017, Volume 10



## Principal's News

Dear Parents / Guardians, Staff, Students and Friends of St Mary of the Angels,

Thank you to all of our prospective families for your attendance at our Year 7 Information Nights in Nathalia and Finley earlier this week. The Information Nights provide us with a great opportunity to showcase the many opportunities that are provided for our students and families. Next week, I look forward to meeting with new students and families at St Joseph's Primary School, Cobram on Monday evening and St Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah on Wednesday evening. In particular, I would like to thank our College Leaders, Lauren Harris, Olivia Brunskill and Pat Brooks, for joining us this year and opening each of the information nights. To have a student perspective at the information nights is definitely an enhancement to the program. Thank you also to Veronica Braybon, Principal at St Joseph's Finley and staff for your hospitality and welcome on Wednesday evening.

Our annual College Open day is fast approaching. Please save the date – Wednesday 17th May. On the day, we will conduct formal presentations followed by College tours at 9.30am and 11.30am. If these times don't suit, the College will be open and fully operational between 10.00am and 2.30pm. Students will be available to conduct College tours throughout the day; we look forward to welcoming many visitors to our College on the day.

**ENROLMENTS ARE OPEN:** Prospective and current families please note that enrolments for 2018 are now open. Current students will have the opportunity to simply re-enrol later in the year, while prospective Year 7 students, and those wishing to enrol in other year levels, have the opportunity to do so until Friday 28th July. Enrolment forms are available in the College Information Pack distributed on our information evenings, at Open Day, from the College office or online at <http://www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/downloads/enrolment-policy-forms/152-enrolment-form-2017/file.html>

In closing, it is with great excitement that I announce that construction of the Year 10 Learning Centre has commenced. After significant delays due to sewerage infrastructural work we have a building permit and work is under way. We look forward to watching the construction of this exciting project during the course of the next few months.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Molly Hargreaves and her family as she continues her treatment in the Royal Children's Hospital for aplastic anaemia, we wish her a speedy recovery.

Pace e bene.

'Peace and goodwill'

**Matt Carver**

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please be with our students as they go where they do not know.  
As they seek to grow in knowledge,  
we ask that they grow in faith.  
As they start to conquer the world,  
we hope that they conquer their fears.  
As they strive to find their place,  
we pray that they find You.  
Please go where we cannot, protect when we cannot, give strength that we cannot,  
and bring them safely home.  
Amen.



**St Mary of the Angels Secondary College**

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stmarysnathalia



## 2017 Student Residential Address Collection

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department), to advise you that the department has requested your child's school provide a statement of addresses, in accordance with section 21 of the Australian Education Regulation 2013 (the Regulation).

A statement of addresses contains the following three pieces of information about students at the school:

- Students' residential address (not student names or other identifying information)
- Students' level of education (i.e. whether the student is receiving primary or secondary education)
- Students' boarding school status (boarders or day students)

### **Authority for and Purpose of Collection**

Consistent with previous practice, and following the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics National Census of Population and Housing (Census), it is timely that information held by the department is updated in order to ensure that Australian Government funding calculations for your child's school are accurate.

Under section 21 of the Regulation, a statement of addresses must not explicitly identify an individual student. Accordingly, all information in the statement of addresses provided by your child's school to the department is de-identified.

### **Use and Disclosure of Information**

It is important to ensure the statements of addresses are accurate, and the department may from time to time carry out audits of statements of addresses to verify their accuracy. In the event of an audit, the department's contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's statement of addresses with student enrolment information held by the school for the purpose of verifying the information. The department's contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

Any further use and disclosure of information relating to the statement of addresses will occur in accordance with section 65 of the Regulation.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions regarding this notice, you can contact the department by:

- Email: [seshelpdesk@education.gov.au](mailto:seshelpdesk@education.gov.au)
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

For further information about the department, including the department's privacy policy, please go to: <https://education.gov.au>.

***Opportunity through learning***

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# Deputy Principals' News


**Ruth Hartnett-Carr,**  
**Deputy Principal - Catholic Identity**

One of the great things about working with teenagers is that you can 'drop in' on their conversations. Last week I had the privilege of listening to a group of girls discussing what they had just witnessed. We were packing up the 'Girls Night Out' venue and the chatter was punctuated with laughter constantly. The girls were discussing the two guest speakers they had listened to. I love listening to children laugh its infectious and always makes me smile.

The first guest speaker, Kristy, spoke about relationships and how her perfectionist traits and constantly striving to be the best had taken a toll on her and her relationships. She explained that she had worked hard to overcome that need to be perfect. The second guest speaker, Kelly, spoke about the fact that we all come in different shapes and sizes and that we need to recognise that the media's portrayal of women's bodies is manipulated to such an extent that it's a false representation. Kelly is a comedian so during the evening the room had a wonderful feeling of energy in it. Laughter just bounced around the room.

'Girls Night Out' is just one of the events that were held during Women's Health Week at the College. Sandy Carver and Carmel Mithen with the support of VCAL's female members organised an outstanding week of events, that were hugely successful. What I really enjoy about the week is that it provides the springboard into having conversations with our girls, be they students that I teach or my own teenage daughter. The lines of communication are opened up and there is no need to 'drop in' on conversations between kids because we are sharing a common experience.

We all remember our own teenage years. They are a time of great growth and development. As parents we all have hopes and dreams for our children. So this week I would like to take the liberty in sharing what I pray for our girls. My hopes and dreams for our girls is that they grow to become strong, resilient, kind, compassionate women and that they are learning how to do that by the women surrounding them now. That our girls know that true beauty comes from within rather than believing beauty is long blonde hair and a symmetrical blemish-free face, with a body based on a digitally altered image. That our girls can speak up when they see an injustice occurring rather than remaining silent, as silence implies you agree with what is happening. That our girls stand in solidarity with the marginalised because the marginalised rarely have a voice and finally that our girls love passionately and live life to the full.

IT IS NOT FANCY HAIR  
gold jewelry, or fine clothes  
that should make you  
**BEAUTIFUL**  
  
No, your beauty should  
come from inside you -  
*the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.*  
That beauty will never disappear,  
**AND IT IS WORTH**  
**VERY MUCH TO GOD.**

1 Peter 3:3-4

## In the footsteps of St Francis

**1206:** Francis renounces his patrimony in front of the Bishop and leaves for Gubbio. It is at this point that Francis leaves his early life and all of it's possessions and begins a life of poverty and simplicity.

### Summer of 1206:

Francis dressed as a hermit returns to Assisi and starts repairing San Damiano.



**1206 – 1208:** Francis successfully repairs San Damiano, a chapel dedicated to St Peter and the Porziuncola.

**February 1208:** Francis begins his vocation of evangelic poverty. He changes his garb to include a rope rather than a leather belt and he begins to preach.

**1208:** Through his preaching, new members start to join Francis and his fraternity.

**1208:** Fraternity members start preaching and going out two by two, spreading the good news and returning for rest and sabbatical.



# Deputy Principals' News

**Tim Campbell, Deputy Principal  
Student Wellbeing & Development**

## HERALD SUN COUNTRY CUP – SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of coaching the combined SMOTA/NSC Senior Boys Herald Sun Country Cup Football team. The boys had big shoes to fill and expectations were high as we have won the competition the past two years running. The boys played tremendously well on the day winning all of their games, comfortably beating both Cobram and Numurkah and defeating a strong Kyabram outfit. The boys moved the ball well, with terrific skills on display (except for Josh Smith's divot!) and hard tackling and pressure from start to finish. Best players for SMOTA on the day included: Jesse Trower, Matt Ryan, Tom Byrnes, Mitch Small, Josh Smith and Mitch Cleeland with Bailey Bell (NSC) taking home the medal for best on ground. Well done to all the boys for your efforts and behavior on the day – you guys were fantastic. A big thank you to Barry Norton, Jeremy Edwards, Shankus Ryan and David Scadden (NSC) for their assistance on the day also. More information about their next level of competition will be made available soon.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photos will be taking place next Tuesday 9th May. All students will need to be in Full Winter Uniform including Navy College Blazer.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS** **Tuesday 9th May 2017**

On photo day, every student attending the school will be photographed.

Please return your child(s) photo envelope to the College prior to or no later than Monday 8th May 2017.

Some tips from the photographers to ensure you get the most out of your school photo:

Ensure your child is groomed and in the best, cleanest uniform, with the correct shoes.

Ensure your child is on time to school on photo day.

Encourage your child to smile - Happy children are beautiful children.

The school cannot help you with your enquiries.

Please direct your questions and comments straight to MSP Photography at [jenny.davies@msp.com.au](mailto:jenny.davies@msp.com.au) or phone (03) 5881 3436.

A reminder on uniform and appearance on the day:

## A REMINDER ON GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Students are expected to wear clothing that is clean and tidy. Hair must be clean and tidy and shoes should be polished regularly. Boys are expected to be clean-shaven; beards or moustaches are not permitted. Ties are to be worn correctly and shirt tails are to be tucked in (winter uniform) unless the shirt is a square-bottomed shirt (summer). The College blazer is to be worn to and from school and other times as required during Terms 2 and 3. It is to be worn on special occasions and as the alternative to the jumper, if for some reason the jumper cannot be worn during Terms 1 and 4.

- A mix of school uniform and sports uniform (eg; sneakers with school uniform) is not permitted.
- Jewellery is not permitted with school uniform. One pair of either sleepers or studs (not both) may be worn, (sleepers no more than 1 cm diameter, studs no larger than 4mm), but only one in each earlobe and they must be plain silver or gold. Spacers are not allowed. No rings are allowed. No Bracelets are allowed. No necklaces are allowed other than a small plain silver or gold crucifix.
- No visible body piercing or tattoos– piercings must be either clear (must not be noticeable), taped or removed. All body piercing is to be removed for PE or other activities.
- Only scarves purchased at the College Office are to be worn
- Combs, hair bands and ribbons are to be in College colours (white, navy blue or maroon) and plain.
- No coloured nail polish or make-up of any kind.
- No extreme unnatural hair colours.
- Black, traditional leather polishable shoes (with no logos) must be worn.
- No coloured T-shirts or long sleeve shirts under any uniform. Plain white singlets or T-shirts only.
- As an Occupational Health and Safety issue, shoes must be fastened at all times, while coming and going, and while at school.
- A reminder to all girls that the winter skirts should be at an appropriate length. The winter skirt is not to be adjusted in height unless it is being lowered - skirt length must be at the knee.

Thank you for your support with this.



### VIC SRC CONFERENCE

Last Friday, we had six students attend the Regional Conference for the VIC SRC and Student Voice at Go Tafe in Shepparton. The students had the opportunity to network with other schools, learn leadership skills and discuss issues of importance at our school. As the teacher in charge, I was proud of the way our students conducted themselves and how they demonstrated a desire for our school to be the best it possibly can. They set a wonderful example to the younger students and showed great foresight as to how we can continue to develop our SRC and Student Voice at the College. Well done Maria Gilroy, Isabella Nielsen, Mia Parker, Tristan Doyle, Kye Roberts and Vince Barca for their efforts on the day – a fantastic group to take away!



**SRC Conference Pictured above:** Back L-R: Vincent Barca, Kye Roberts, Mia Parker, Tristan Doyle Front L-R: Isabella Nielsen, Kate Wilde (Presenter), Maria Gilroy.

**Pictured right:** Maria Gilroy and Isabella Nielsen.

### 13 REASONS WHY

In recent weeks, the media has given much attention to the recently released series, "13 Reasons Why". We as a school are aware that a large number of our students, some as young as Year 7, have watched all or part of the series, which is currently available on Netflix. The mini series revolves around the aftermath of a teenage girl's suicide and was made available in Australia during the April school holidays. The media has rightly focused on concerns raised by parents, mental health organisations and advocates. One of Australia's peak mental health organisations, Headspace, has issued a warning about the impact of the series and some of the graphic scenes. These scenes can be triggers for young people. Of particular concern is the graphic depiction of rape, sexual assault, bullying and suicide. '13 Reasons Why' is rated MA 15+ in Australia and is based on the young adult novel of the same name. The disturbing aspects of the series include the graphic depiction of the above named events, as well as the blaming of others and the lack of communication between adults and young people. It is important that we educate our students about the differences between fictional shows and the real world, as well as the importance of communicating with others when things are difficult in our lives. The most important ongoing message in relation to the issue of suicide is stressing to our young people to talk to a trusted adult.

Attached to this newsletter is some information provided by "Mental Health First Aid Australia" in regards to the series, as well as support agencies that are available to families and young people.

We as a school do not endorse any element of the series but have found the need to communicate openly with our school community so that our parents and guardians have the resources available to support their child.





## **13 Reasons Why: Plot summary and content warnings**

If you haven't seen *13 Reasons Why* but want to discuss it with a young person, or are trying to decide whether it is suitable viewing for a young person in your care, this summary may help. It covers the basic plot and describes content that viewers may find disturbing. *13 Reasons Why* is not consistent with many guidelines for media reporting and depiction of suicide, and watching it may be distressing for young people, especially those who are vulnerable.

*13 Reasons Why* is a high school based drama recently released internationally on Netflix. All 13 hour-long episodes were released together, on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. It is the story of Hannah, a young woman who has died by suicide before the show starts. She has left a box of audio-tapes with Clay, the protagonist of the show, each revealing one of the 13 reasons why she decided to die. On the tapes, she details a number of highly traumatic events that contributed to her developing thoughts of suicide, mostly involving her classmates. Clay is the last of several people who were to listen to the tapes, according to her instructions. As Clay plays them, he learns about many things that happened during Hannah's life. Classmates who have already heard the tapes are involved at various points, providing additional (sometimes conflicting) information and trying to keep him on track.

On the surface, the show clearly set out to do something important, like the novel of the same name; to show that actions have consequences. Hannah was raped, bullied (both on and offline), stalked and harassed. Obscene photographs of her were circulated. The list goes on; as you can imagine, the list is Hannah's '13 reasons' for taking her own life.

**The show contains several distressing and graphic scenes, including Hannah's suicide and two rape scenes** (one of these is Hannah's rape, the other, an almost unconscious classmate, while Hannah is hiding in the room terrified to act).

The story is told out of sequence. Sometimes we see the world through Hannah's eyes, and sometimes through Clay's eyes after her death, often with her voice narrating events as he hears her on the tapes. This can give the impression that she is present after her death, and that she is seeing the impact that her death has had on her classmates and others. Her locker is decorated by classmates who take selfies in front of it, further romanticizing and trivializing her death.

A critical plot point is that towards the end of the show, Hannah does reach out to an adult. She sees this as her last attempt to get help. She talks to a school counsellor and he handles the situation very poorly, and ultimately lets her leave his office without doing anything to help. While this was probably intended to show one specific adult who failed to help, the impression is that adults can't or won't help.

In the end we learn that Clay, who has spent most of the show convinced that he above anyone else must be responsible for her suicide, is the only person she doesn't blame. She included him in the process so that he would understand why she'd pushed him away when they were kissing, after acknowledging their feelings for each other.

**If a young person hasn't yet watched the show and wishes to, encourage the following:**

- It's okay to fast-forward through upsetting scenes. Viewing them in full is not necessary to understand the story. Suicide and rape are not romantic, and should not be considered entertainment.
- Consider watching the show with a trusted responsible adult as this would allow them to ask questions about themes and scenes that are upsetting or confusing.
- Just because all the episodes are there, doesn't mean they need to all be watched at the same time. Watching an episode a couple of times a week or even less gives a young person time to think critically about the show, rather than risk feeling upset by it.
- *It's okay not to watch the show at all*, even if other friends have.

[www.mhfa.com.au](http://www.mhfa.com.au)

**A not-for-profit organisation focused on mental health training and research**

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Mental Health First Aid Australia is a trading name of Mental Health First Aid International ABN: 57 153 480 436





## 13 Reasons Why: Important talking points

- It's important to remember that *13 Reasons Why* is a fictional story and many aspects should not be taken as a reflection of real life.
- If a person dies by suicide, they are not there afterwards to observe the aftermath. Because of the way Hannah's story is told, it often feels like she is there watching and seeing how the story unfolds. Some young people may view suicide as a way of punishing someone or getting revenge, however they need to understand that a person who suicides will never see or know how things turned out after their death.
- Young people who find that they can identify with Hannah, her life experiences, and thoughts of suicide, need to know that there is help available.
- The poor way the school counsellor reacted to Hannah's statement that she had been raped, and his lack of attention to her, such as taking a phone call during their session, is not typical of counsellors. Counsellors are professionals who are trained to listen and provide help, and seek additional support for a person if needed.
- A young person who believes that adults can't or won't help because of the show's themes need to be encouraged to be persistent. It's a matter of finding the right person, and there are many suitable people who can help.
- Keeping secrets about traumatic events such as rape and bullying is never okay. When these things happen, there are people who can help. Keeping secrets can delay a person's recovery.
- Suicidal thoughts are painful and difficult to endure, but most people who have thoughts of suicide don't act on them. A young person who feels like there are no other options left needs to hear that there are *always* other options.
- Young people who have lost a friend to suicide need to know that there is no one to blame in a situation like this. Young people who feel guilty need support and counselling.
- People can learn to recognise some of the signs that indicate a person is at risk of suicide. If a young person thinks that a friend is at risk of suicide, they should ask the friend directly e.g. "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" If the answer is yes, they need to get an adult involved right away.
- Though it is normal to feel guilt when a friend suicides, no one is to blame for another person's suicide. Young people may point to characters in the show, particularly the classmate who raped Hannah, and those who bullied her, and say that these characters are responsible. While those characters are guilty of the things they did, and should face legal consequences, this is not the same as being responsible for her suicide.

### If a young person is distressed and in need of support, they can call or visit:

- Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) or [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)
- eHeadspace (1800 650 890) or [eheadspace.org.au](http://eheadspace.org.au)
- Lifeline (13 11 14) or [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

**Mental Health First Aid Australia** is a national not-for-profit charity that provides training to adults who live and work with young people (Youth Mental Health First Aid) and young people themselves (teen Mental Health First Aid) to build knowledge, skills and confidence in how to help a person experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. In addition, specific suicide first aid training is available (Mental Health First Aid for the Suicidal Person). Suicide first aid guidelines are available on the website.

For information, visit [mhfa.com.au](http://mhfa.com.au)

[www.mhfa.com.au](http://www.mhfa.com.au)

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# Deputy Principals' News

**Bev Thorp**

**Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching**

## INFORMATION NIGHTS

Our St Mary of the Angels Information Nights are currently underway for families that may be considering enrolment in our College in 2018.

Information Nights have already been held in Nathalia and Finley, and will be held in Cobram and Numurkah next week, dates and times as listed below.

These events are a great way to learn a little more about our history and values, the facilities and programs that we have to offer, and to meet some of our staff and College student leaders. We look forward to meeting as many potential new families as possible over the Information Night period, culminating in our Open Day on 17th May.

Open Day provides the opportunity to visit the College, walk through and observe classes in action, ask questions of staff and students, and generally 'get the feel of the place'. Tours will be run by student leaders throughout the day with presentations to be held at 9.30 am and 11.30 am.

Don't forget to grab a cuppa and scone prepared by our Hospitality students!

All interested families and members of our College community are most welcome to join us at one of the Information Nights and Open Day.

St Joseph's Primary School, Cobram  
Monday 8th May 7.30 pm

St Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah  
Wednesday 10th May 7.30 pm

## OPEN DAY

St Mary of the Angels College, Nathalia  
Wednesday 17th May 9.30 am - 2.30 pm

## PRODUCTION: THE LITTLE MERMAID

Rehearsals are starting to have added purpose as we close in on our production performances. Sets are prepared, and plenty of work is happening both in front of house, behind the scenes and in the performance itself.

Beginning with a full dress rehearsal matinee for Grade 6 students from our associate Catholic schools on Monday 22nd May, performances will be held on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th May. Tickets may be booked online (details are included in this newsletter), or via the College Office if you have having difficulty with the online booking process. Tickets are already selling rapidly, so don't delay book early! Good luck to all involved.

## NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be held next week from Tuesday 9th May - Thursday 11th May. The NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Results from NAPLAN testing will be made available around the middle of Term 3. Parents/Guardians will receive your child's personal NAPLAN report which will describe your child's particular skills in the tests. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia. The test results also provide valuable information for teachers which can be used to ascertain where students are in their learning and helps to support teacher planning to improve student achievement.

Parents/Guardians may support your child in preparing for NAPLAN tests by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of the normal school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure that all students are familiar with the layout of the test papers prior to the testing period. Students are reminded to ensure that they have appropriate materials for the tests:

- 2B or HB pencils (or black or blue pen for the Writing test), an eraser and a sharpener
- a scientific calculator for Part A of the Numeracy test.

All students in Years 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests.

Students may be eligible for exemption or support due to disability, or may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their Parent/Guardian. If you decide to exempt or withdraw your child, you must sign the appropriate Record of Exemption or Student Withdrawal form which are available from, and must be held by, the College.

If you think your child is eligible for support due to disability, you should discuss this with our Student Enrichment Leader, Mrs Carolyn Goode. Please visit [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au) or the information brochure attached to this newsletter for further information regarding NAPLAN, or do not hesitate to contact me at the College with any queries or concerns regarding NAPLAN testing.



### **What is NAPLAN?**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

### **Why do students do NAPLAN tests?**

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be improved.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

### **What will be tested and how?**

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. NAPLAN content is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this, please see the NAP website:

[www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website.

### **Who will run the tests?**

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

### **How can I help my child prepare for the tests?**

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

### **What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?**

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

### How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

### What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 12 May 2017.

### Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

### How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

### Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit the NAP website [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website).

For ACARA's privacy policy, go to:

[www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/privacy](http://www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/privacy)

### NAPLAN 2017 tests timetable

|        | Tuesday<br>9 May  | Wednesday<br>10 May   | Thursday<br>11 May     |
|--------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Year 3 | language conventions<br>40 minutes<br>writing<br>40 minutes | reading<br>45 minutes | numeracy<br>45 minutes |
| Year 5 | language conventions<br>40 minutes<br>writing<br>40 minutes | reading<br>50 minutes | numeracy<br>50 minutes |
| Year 7 | language conventions<br>45 minutes<br>writing<br>40 minutes | reading<br>65 minutes | numeracy<br>60 minutes |
| Year 9 | language conventions<br>45 minutes<br>writing<br>40 minutes | reading<br>65 minutes | numeracy<br>60 minutes |

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability.
- Calculators are **not** permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student will sit one numeracy test. This test will have two parts: one where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.

## Parents & Friends

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you spare a couple of hours to assist St Mary of the Angels Parents & Friends?

Mrs Alderton, our very generous Trivia Master, would like some assistance in selling 'Town Quiz' sheets at:

#### Cobram Woolworths:

12th & 13th May 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

18th, 19th & 20th May 10.00am to 12.00 noon

#### Cobram IGA on:

26th & 27th May 10.00am to 12.30pm

2nd & 3rd June 10.00am to 12.30pm

Please contact Rachel McKay at Cobram BP  
on (03) 5872 2400

## Social Justice



For several years our College has sold 'SMOTA Scarves' produced by 'TIKA - Women Working for a better Future'.

The purchase of our College scarves helps to improve the lives of women and their families in one of the poorest districts of Peru. Many of the inhabitants are single mothers struggling to pay their rent and feed, clothe and educate their children. Their work in the knitting workshop gives these women fairly paid employment, dignity and the ability to support their families.

The hand-knitted navy and white scarves are available for purchase for \$16 from the College Office and are the only scarves permitted to be worn with the St Mary of the Angels uniform.

## Term 2 - Student Free Days

**12th June** Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday

**16th June** Data Entry Day - Student Free

**20th June** Year 7 students only  
for Grade 6 Transition Program

## SMOTA Parents & Friends



Quiz sheets available from  
the 9th May 2017

Please support our 'Town Quiz'  
fundraising event!

Entry just : \$1.00

The first correct entry drawn wins \$100 Cash.

ALL Answers are an Australian Town with a postcode.  
Most answers can be found on road-maps. Spelling  
clues may be phonetic, actual or cryptic.

Once completed post back to the College Office  
before 7th July 2017.

Send to: St Mary of the Angels Town Quiz  
P O Box 141, Nathalia VIC 3638

**Thank you to the following businesses (listed below)  
for the distribution and sales of the quiz.**

Quiz sheets available from the following supporting  
businesses: Jean Alderton, Barooga Post Office,  
Cobram Office & Stationery Supplies, Cobram  
Tattslooto, Café 3641, The Big Strawberry, Finley BP,  
Limos Hardware , Katamatite Post Office,  
Numurkah Pharmacy, McPhersons Mensland, Capri  
Pizza, Cobram BP, Bendigo Bank, Cobram Courier  
and St Mary of the Angels Office.





Thanks to everyone involved in the SMOTA Girls Week last week.

A HUGE thank you to the VCAL students and teachers who organised the weeks activities: meditation, yoga, river walks, photography/singing competitions and free smoothies!! To all those that attended the SMOTA Girls Night Out – what an amazing night, our cheeks are still recovering from all the laughter! On the night, Kristy Hunter and 'Everlyn' (Kelly Nash - pictured page 13) delivered some powerful messages about developing healthy mother/daughter relationships and 'keeping it real' in regards to body image.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise, set up and pack up the night especially Neroli and the VET students for the amazing food.

We have attached Kristy Hunter's 'Tips for healthy communication; mother/daughter relationships' sheet.

## SMOTA GIRLS INSPIRE Sandy and Mrs Mithen



[www.wellbalance.net.au](http://www.wellbalance.net.au)  
Promoting wellbeing and effective relationships through:  
Education, coaching, mediation, counselling.

## Tips for healthy communication; Mother/daughter relationships

- Communicate transparently
- Don't use guilt (fostering shame)
- Opt for honesty over manipulation
- Set clear expectations (good boundaries)
- Abandon perfectionism
- Expect mistakes
- Acknowledge mistakes – say sorry
- Forgive
- Remember loving doesn't rely on liking
- Label behaviour NOT character - identity
- Be mindful of external pressures
- Be grounded to something larger than yourself
- Choose your friends wisely
- Foster trust
- Think with the end in mind
- Pick your battles
- Don't compare
- Celebrate what you have
- Have fun together

*Develop your own unique healthy model of communication; interaction; expectation; that fosters respect for self and others.*



### Snapshot of services:

- Mediation/conflict resolution
- Education/training
- Coaching
- Counselling
- Trauma debriefing
- Group reflection
- Team building



f: wellbalance  
i: well\_balance  
in: Kristy Hunter  
y: wellbalance

m: 0417 399 512

e: [kristy@wellbalance.net.au](mailto:kristy@wellbalance.net.au)



Comedian Kelly Nash had the audience in 'stitches'.



## SMOTA'S GIRLS' NIGHT OUT





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Cody Baker,**  
**Alumni Class of 2013.**

I began attending SMOTA in 2011 as a Year 10 student.

Just prior to starting at St Mary of the Angels, I contacted Samuel James of Rex James Stockfeeds and asked about undertaking a New School Based Apprenticeship in Agriculture. I was able to work one day a week and attended school the other four days.

I always knew I didn't want to go to university, I just wanted to work. I also knew that VCAL was the right path for me, one where I could be flexible with my schooling and keep it authentic. I wasn't one for studying!

With each year, my days of work increased so in Year 11 I worked 2 days and came to school on the other 3. In Year 12 I worked 3 days and came to school for two and a half days. I was also a College Leader; I got to speak to the group of Principals on the SSEB, highlighting the importance of VCAL being offered to students as an alternative to VCE. I also brought humour to many school events, MC-ing a lot of these throughout the year. I quite enjoyed the social side of my schooling!

At the end of school, I stayed on with Rex James working full time until I started working for a good family friend in Richard Williams of Yalca in 2014. This work involved laser grading, grain harvesting and general farm duties. Although I enjoyed the farm work immensely and still do, I had another passion to follow in my Pa's footsteps and into harness racing. Another close family friend was also encouraged me to do this too.

My Pa has been involved in harness racing for a very long time as a Steward at the Ballarat trotting club. I actually competed in pony trots with my pony Little Lucifer from the age of 8 - 12. In my spare time I would attend the trots with him and help him on race days. I had also done work experience in Year 10 with Harness Racing Victoria as a steward and absolutely loved it. Later in the year, I met with the head of the stewards panel and was offered a casual position working initially in their registrations department and as a race day judge.

Whilst I jumped at the chance to do this, I was nervous about shifting to Melbourne. I didn't like the idea of living in Melbourne and certainly didn't think much of the public transport, but this was my dream job! Things progressed



fairly quickly for me and I was offered a traineeship as a cadet steward.

This meant my duties now included working at the office and at race meetings as a steward, overseeing the running of the meetings and ensuring that everyone did the right thing. I was observing the older blokes and girls on the stewards' panel to see how they perceived events and pretty soon I was able to start reading races as they unfolded just like them. Getting out of the office is the best, I love the different things

I get to do - overseeing race meetings, starting races, stable inspections, yearling sales and even sitting in on appeal hearings. It is always different.

Upon completion of my traineeship, I joined the stewards panel full time as a cadet steward, and have recently conducted my first meeting where I was in charge. This was a fantastic experience for me.

Harness racing isn't just about the racing and the integrity of the sport. Each year there are charity events held too, things like a football/netball matches between drivers/trainers/owners and other participants, as well as the Good Friday Appeal Sulky Challenge. This is run on the Thursday night before Easter. This year I was asked to be the first steward rep in this, so I had to run 100m pulling a sulky with a pony trot driver on board. I was a 100 to 1 shot with the bookmakers on the day of the event, which I think was a bit harsh! I didn't come last so that was a good thing I suppose! My driver has already given me instructions for next year - wear shorts and runners instead of suit and shoes! If you have Facebook, there is a video of the sulky challenge on the harness racing Victoria page.

I absolutely love my job and just want to let you know that you can be very successful in life without going to University. There are other ways to achieve your dreams, I know because I am achieving mine!



**Pictured left:**  
Cody ('the horse') competes in the 2017 Good Friday Sulky Challenge at Melton. This annual event raises money for the Royal Children's Hospital.



## Student News



L-R: Tom Boyd, Positive Panda & John Walker.

Hi my name is Positivity Panda,

Lately a few people around SMOTA have been asking who I am and how I, a Panda from China came to be at St Mary of the Angels. So I thought that I (Positivity Panda), would take this opportunity to introduce myself and take part in the photo shoot with Kylie.

I arrived at SMOTA in 2015 (via Australia Post), after a long journey from the mountainous regions of central China and was adopted by Miss Sparrow and what was then 10 Gold. I was pretty tired after all that travel, but I remained positive.

You see upon my arrival at SMOTA I had one job in 10 Gold, to turn their frowns upside down. Miss Sparrow had been really worried about the negativity of her homeroom, they just didn't have anything positive to say! "Have a nice afternoon", Miss Sparrow would call as her students left the room, "Unlikely" would be the response, or a mere grunt.

But when I arrived things started to look up. **Step One**, I snuck away from my bamboo nest and decorated the classroom with Positive Panda memes i.e. 'Don't make the positivity panda cry'.

**Step Two**, I sat with whoever was being a bit of a negative nancy or having a bit of a rough day.

**Step Three**, force students to say positive things at the end of the day. I would wait at the door and on the way out of homeroom, the class would have to say something positive about their day.

Since then I have stayed with 10 Gold as they have grown, now they are 12 Gold in their final year. You almost wouldn't recognise them, they are no longer 'Negative Nancies', now they are 'Positive Poppies'.

We've come a long way since 2015, I live with 12 Gold, but now I spread my message of positivity far and wide, travelling with Miss Sparrow to lots of classes.

You can see from the photo above of Sports Captains John Walker and Tom Boyd that I bring smiles to everyone's dials.

So if you see me around, say hi and be sure to smile.

*Positivity Panda*

**Ghost Writer - Stephanie Sparrow**

## Save the Date

**COLLEGE HOUSE ATHLETICS**  
**Friday 12th May, 2017**  
**9.30am - 3.00pm**  
at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve,  
Park Street Nathalia.

Parents and Guardians please join us for the annual **House Athletics Sports day** this coming **Friday 12th May** at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve.

## Wanted:

The VCAL class of 2017 is looking for a caravan which could be renovated for a community project as part of our personal development service (PDS) work.

We are planning to transform a 'well-loved' caravan into a portable hospitality facility to enhance the VCafe (VCAL cafeteria business) and to be used for College community events such as the swimming sports, athletics, and the Nathalia Carol's by Candlelight evening.

It is hope that this project will also enable the VCAL students to maximise fundraising opportunities in the wider community.

Do you have a second-hand caravan which is:

- in good condition
- roadworthy or able to be made roadworthy with minimal repair.

We have a small budget to purchase a caravan. If you have one for sale or would like to donate a caravan to the College, which is no longer needed, please contact VCAL teacher Mick Butler on 0438 091340.



VCAL Community Van possibilities.





**EQUESTRIAN TEAM** L-R: Adele Eddy, Anneliese Phillips, Bridie Chester, Ella Osler, Kasey Brennan, Abbey Brennan, Haylee Adams, Jordyn Lee-Madgwick. Chelsea Gray (absent).

## North Eastern Inter-School Challenge

### Abbey Brennan & Adele Eddy

Over the weekend of the 22nd-23rd April, two St Mary of the Angels teams and a combined St Francis Primary School and St Mary's team competed at the Equestrian Inter-school competition held in Tatura.

Saturday's events consisted of dressage, show-jumping and handy mount. Ella Osler won reserve champion in level 4 dressage, Haylee Adams won the reserve champion in level 2 dressage, as well as reserve champion in C grade show-jumping. Abbey Brennan 2nd and 3rd in Level 2 dressage, 4th in D grade jumping, as well as 2nd in Handy Mount. Anneliese Phillips placed reserve champion in D grade show-jumping and 2nd in Handy mount. Kasey Brennan place 4th and 6th in level 4 dressage and 3rd in handy mount. Adele Eddy placed 5th in both her level 3 dressage tests, 4th in E grade jumping and 5th in Handy mount. Jordyn Lee-Madgwick place 3rd in Level 3 dressage and 4th in handy mount. Emily Stone placing 5th in the Walk trot test and 1st in jumping. Sarah Stone 3rd in Level 5 dressage and 4th in F grade show-jumping. Chelsea Gray placed 2nd in level 4 dressage and 1st in Handy mount and Bridie Chester placed 4th in Handy mount. On the Saturday night the interschool also ran a musical ride event where Chelsea Gray, Emily Stone, Sarah Stone and Haylee Adams won the team of four musical ride.

Events on Sunday consisted of games, smartest, rider, best educated, pleasure and handler. Haylee Adams won her overall age group, 2nd in the part welsh event and 2nd in the OTT event. Jordyn Lee-Madgwick placed 6th in the OTT.

We were extremely proud to represent the College. Our teams all placed in the top 5 overall: 'Bling It On' placed 3rd, 'A Little Bit of Chaos' 4th and 'The Angels' 5th. Well done!



1.



2.



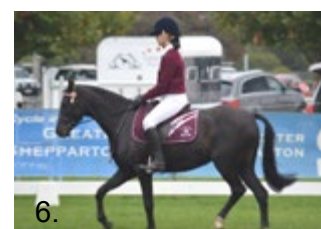
3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

1. Abbey Brennan
2. Adele Eddy
3. Kasey Brennan
4. Bridie Chester
5. Chelsea Gray

6. Ella Osler
7. Haylee Adams
8. Jordyn Lee-Madgwick
9. Anneleise Phillips.



9.



## SMOTA SOCCER

Forty-six students represented the College at the junior Campaspe District Soccer Tournament held at the Moama precinct on Thursday.

Miss Rawson recruited well when she enlisted the Year 10 boys Vince Barca, Will Seabrook, Kye Roberts, Kaine Humphries and Zac Mcleod as the junior teams' coaches as they all have a great deal of soccer smarts, skill and years of experience. Teachers from other schools were suitably impressed and commented on the professionalism of the coaches, their inspirational speeches and their encouragement.



### YEAR 8 GIRLS (PICTURED ABOVE)

#### **Jess Tymensen & Sarah Carr**

As we arrived at Moama the girls jumped straight into their first game. Most of the team had not even played soccer before, so it was a rough start. We lost the game 3 - 0 but came off with a positive attitude. Our second game was much better with a strong forward line in Jemmah Ryan, Aleah Brand and Jessica Tymensen. Our midfield consisted of Sarah Carr, Zoe Germon and Holly Noonan. Even though our defence, made up of Jordyn Lee-Madgwick, Danielle Dines, Gemma Conally and Bri Morgan, tried their best; the opposing team proved to be better and we went down 2-0. In our last game, we put our skills to the test and drew nil all and our awesome goal keeper Ally Fitzpatrick kept all the goals out. Thanks to our great coaches, Zac McLeod and Josh Koopman



### YEAR 7 BOYS (PICTURED ABOVE)

#### **Connor Baxa, Hunter Verhoeven and Dokota Borg**

Very nervously we got off the bus and didn't have much time to get changed before our first game. Vince Barca and Will Seabrook announced the captains Matteo Allen and Connor Baxa.

The first game we played Echuca, it was a great game winning 2 - 0 with Matteo and Hugh Hyde scoring goals. Scott Guppy made some great advances forward with Jason Beckett, Cooper Bloodworth and Dakota Borg passing the ball well.

The next game we played Kyabram winning 3 - 1 with Alex Braaksma scoring 2 and Hugh scoring again.

Our final game was against Echuca, finishing in a draw 0 - 0. Our solid strong wall of defense of Clayton Beer, Connor Baxa, Hunter Verhoeven, Noah Sneddon and our dominant goal keeper Connor Sessions kept us in the game. Even though we didn't lose a game for the day, neither did our opponents St Joseph's Echuca. And St Joseph's scored more goals throughout the day, so advanced through to the next level based on goal difference.

For the whole day everyone played well and tried their best. Matteo led well and controlled the game and Alex Braaksma showed great skill and Hugh Hyde was a little work horse running hard each game. Thanks to Vince and Will for coaching us for the day.

### YEAR 8 BOYS (PICTURED LEFT)

#### **James Kam & Andre Fazio-Castle**

We arrived at Moama our first game was a very tough game against Echuca. Jake Brown assisted Anthony Corso and Bailey Roberts to score a few goals. Will Sheehan injured himself early, as did Archie Congues which meant we didn't have a bench. The next game against Kyabram was a thriller with our defence trying their best James Kam, Loklan Humphries, Jack Bergamin, Andre Fazio-Castle and Paul Diretto but unfortunately we lost. Then the next game was a breeze winning 7-0 with a lot of great goals and Hunter Goodin, Rhys Cason and Josh Woods passing the ball well. The team played very well. Our injured goalie, Archie did a goalie run and was lucky to make it back in time not to concede. Thanks for the coaches Kye Roberts and Kaine Humphries.





**SENIOR SMOTA/NATHALIA FOOTBALL TEAM Back L-R:** Spencer Small, Jordan Cleeland, Mitchell Small, Joshua Smith, Shane Bergamin, Jayden Rees, Tomas O'Sullivan, Jesse Trower, Tristan Lee-Madgwick, Peter Ingamells, Jack Wilson, Jacob Morris, Mitchell Cleeland, Damon Hartley, Thomas Boyd, Nathan Oakes.

**Front L-R:** John Walker, Jack Bell, Will Foster, Todd Davies, Bailey Bell, Matt Ryan, Marcus Evans, Adam Jorgenson, Kian Wise, Scott Morris, Josh Gemmill, Jarrod Byrne.

## SUN HERALD COUNTRY CUP

It was prime weather with plenty of cloud cover and a gentle balmy north-westerly wind for some high quality footy at the Barooga Oval on Tuesday 2nd May.

The SMOTA Nathalia senior football coaching and selection team consisting of Tim Campbell, Barry Norton, Jeremy Edwards and Shankus Ryan were very pleased with their teams' passion and skills and, of course the final results.

There were many standout performances throughout the day however the team captain Bailey Bell from the Nathalia Secondary College led by example and was named overall the best player for round one.

The senior 'boys' finishing the day undefeated in round one of the MCC Herald Sun Country Cup.

Journalism student, Chloe Hicks caught up with Jesse Trower about the round 1 victory.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysnathalia/videos/1355501774526075/>



### ROUND ONE GAME RESULTS:

#### **GAME 1:**

SMOTA Nathalia 9.7 61 defeated Cobram 0.2 2

Goal Kickers: Nathalia - B Bell 5, K Wise, M Ryan, S Small, P Ingamells

Best Players: Nathalia - B Bell, J Trower, A Jorgensen, M Small, M Ryan, T Byrnes, K Wise

#### **GAME 2:**

SMOTA Nathalia 5.2 32 defeated Kyabram 1.2 8

Goal Kickers: Kyabram - R Ironside

Nathalia: T Byrnes, B Bell, J Trower, M Ryan, K Wise

Best Players: Nathalia - K Wise, M Ryan, B Tristoe, J Smith, T Byrnes, B Bell, M Cleeland, J Trower,

#### **GAME 3:**

SMOTA Nathalia 10.8 68 defeated Numurkah 1.0 6

Goal Kickers: Nathalia - J Bell 4, J Trower, T Davies, K Wise, S Bergamin, T Byrnes, B Bell

Numurkah - K Vandergor

Best Players: Nathalia: B Bell, J Trower, M Small, J Bell, K Wise, T Madgwick.

### **SMOTA NATHALIA BEST PLAYER:**

Bailey Bell (NSC)





## Technology News

### FIDGET SPINNER

*Albatool Abdulmir, Year 7*

In Technology this term we have been making Laser Cut Fidget Spinners.

We used a program called PRO Desktop. On PRO Desktop, we had the ability to design our Fidget Spinners following a design from the instructable website at <http://www.instructables.com/id/Laser-Cut-Fidget-Spinner/>

This instructible was created by Mr Smith (our Technology teacher) and on it you can find step by step instructions and pictures on how to make your very own Fidget Spinner. After designing the Fidget Spinner, we sent it to the laser cutter and it cut our design. We had the choice of what colour we wanted and then began constructing our spinner.

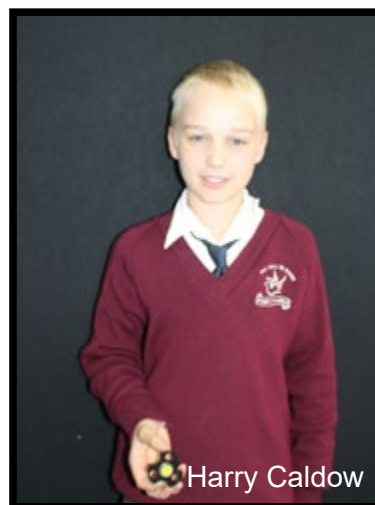
The finished product has been extremely fun to play/ fidget with and you can show off to all your friends, as you have just made the latest trend! =D



Year 7 students make the latest trend in Technology a 'Fidget Spinner'.



Chloe Pullar



Harry Caldow



Felicity Tickell

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College proudly presents  
the production of

# Disney 'The Little Mermaid'

Music by  
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by  
HOWARD ASHMAN  
& GLEN SLATERY

Book by  
DOUG WRIGHT

Originally Produced by  
Disney Theatrical Productions

*Evening Shows*  
will be held in the  
St Clare Auditorium  
at St Mary of the Angels,  
Nathalia

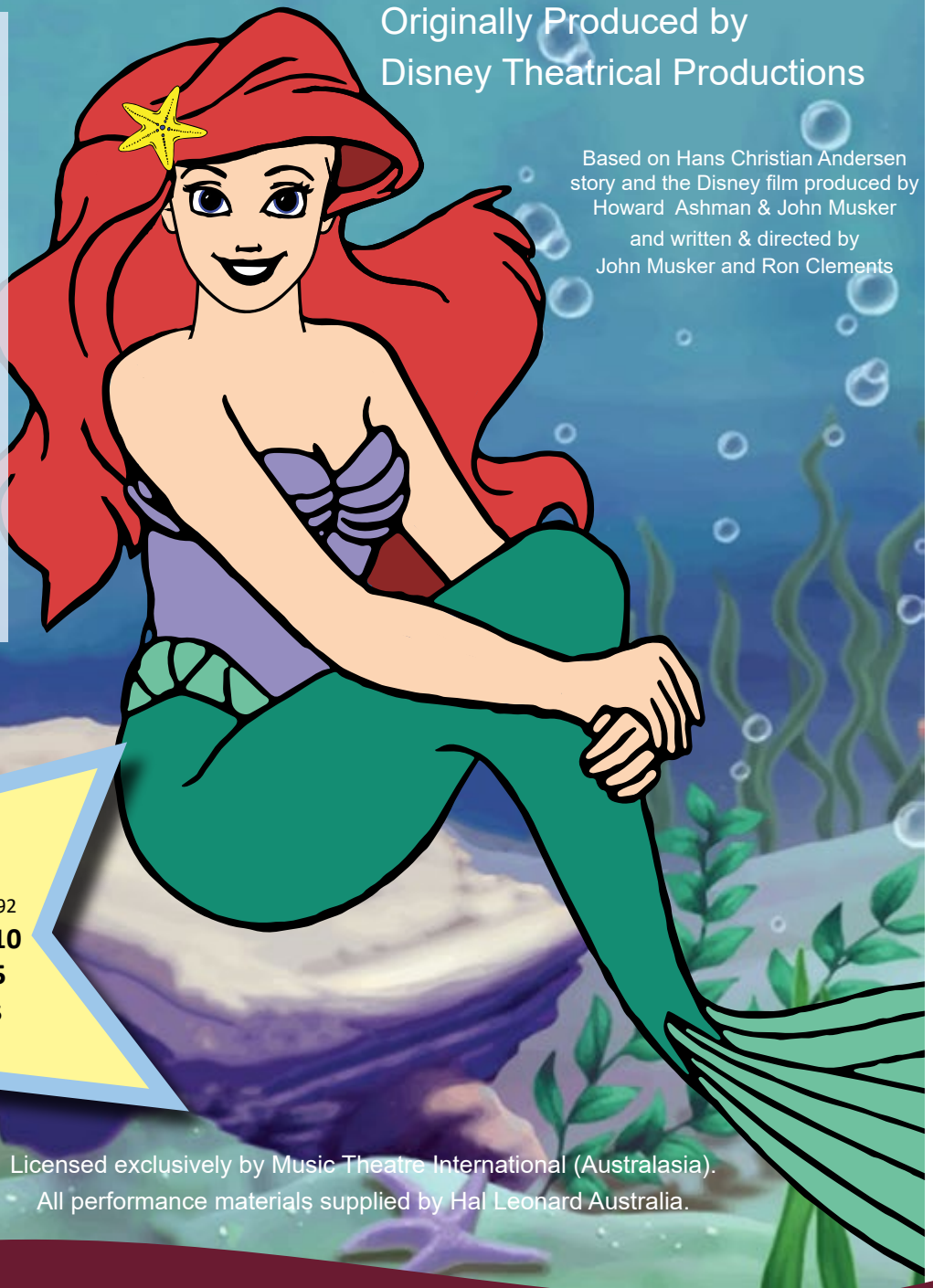
**Thursday 25th May, 7.00pm**

**Friday 26th May, 7.00pm**

**Saturday 27th May, 7.00pm**

*MATINEE SHOW*  
**Saturday 27th May 2.00pm**

Based on Hans Christian Andersen  
story and the Disney film produced by  
Howard Ashman & John Musker  
and written & directed by  
John Musker and Ron Clements



## TICKETS

can be booked online at:  
[www.trybooking.com/272092](http://www.trybooking.com/272092)

**Adult Tickets \$10**

**Child Tickets \$5**

**Family Tickets \$25**  
(2 x Adult & 2 x Children)

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

**St Mary of the Angels Secondary College**  
Chapel Street, Nathalia, Victoria, 3638

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