

# MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

Ph: 0885 751106  
Fax: 0885 751368  
1 North Terrace  
MENINGIE SA 5264

PRINCIPAL: Ms Monica Williams  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Mal Jurgs  
SENIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn Hese  
JUNIOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Ms Katrina Hood



[info@meningieas.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@meningieas.sa.edu.au)

**NEWSLETTER 7**  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2009

[www.meningieas.sa.edu.au](http://www.meningieas.sa.edu.au)

## **REMINDER**

### **Three Choices**

### **Effective Discipline for Children**

### **Workshops commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **DIARY DATES:**

<b>4 May</b>	3 Choices – 1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop 6 – 8 pm
<b>4 May</b>	Resources meeting 7.30 pm
<b>4 May</b>	Governing Council meeting 8.00 pm
<b>5 – 7 May</b>	Middle & Senior School interviews
<b>6 May</b>	Year 3/4G German excursion to Hahndorf
<b>7 - 8 May</b>	Year 10 Future Leaders Camp
<b>11 May</b>	3 Choices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Workshop 6 – 8 pm
<b>11 May</b>	Middle & Senior School Interviews
<b>12 - 14 May</b>	NAPLAN testing

#### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**



Welcome back to the start of a new term. It has been a good start, and everyone seems lifted by the rain that we have had in the last few days. It is amazing how quickly the grass responds and the oval is showing signs of an early recovery.

This term we welcome new Reception students Cameron Miller and Chelsea Hoad. Also to students Tyler Kraft, Scott Kraft and Saskia White. We hope you enjoy your time at Meningie Area School.

Throughout the holidays students parents and teachers were involved in a number of school related extra curricula activities.

As advertised in both school correspondence and the Lakelander, last Wednesday evening at the Irish Club in Adelaide was the venue for the launch of the

Connecting Spirits CD featuring Rita Lindsay and Flo Bourke.

About 130 people attended this event, including many students and families who have been on the trip or are intending to go on the planned trip in 2010. This was a wonderful evening with the girls performing several of the songs on the album. It was a very moving event and a real honour to attend such a tribute to the ANZACS. I take this opportunity to congratulate both girls on the release of their album and thank all those people behind the scenes who helped to make it possible. In particular, Mal Jurgs who spent time on the design work as well as the organisation of the event.

On ANZAC day students from the school were in attendance at the Meningie dawn service where it is now our tradition to lay a wreath. The Connecting Spirits program has forged close links with the local RSL and students attended the traditional breakfast at the RSL hall at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Several students, along with Anne Wright, attended and competed in the State Team Sailing at Victor Harbour during the second weekend of the school holidays. Congratulations to the team. The results are the best we have ever had. This is a real accomplishment considering the difficulty of having regular practice with the lake as it is. Well done all!

#### **Three Choices Effective Discipline for Children 2-12**

A flier was attached and sent out with the last Newsletter of Term 1 advertising of the Three Choices program to be run here over the next three Monday evenings from 6pm-8pm in the Meningie Community Library. I know a number of parents in Meningie have attended this program before and it comes highly recommended. It is being delivered by Annette Flanagan through Centacare, and a crèche is being run by Meningie Area School Parents & Friends. A light tea at no cost will also be provided. The aim of the program is to develop and strengthen the relationships with your child / children. For further details please see the advertisement in the Lakelander this week or contact the school for more information and / or bookings.

## Middle/Senior School Interviews

Please return student report envelopes to school with the information requesting interviews. These are on the planner for weeks 2 and 3 of this term. Lorraine Willis is coordinating the program, and needs your requests urgently. Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

## National Schools Pride

We have been officially advised that we were successful in our application in Round One of the National School Pride program as a component of the Australian Government's \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution. We are to receive \$125,000. This money will be used by Governing Council on programs submitted and approved. Work will begin during the year, and will need to be completed by 20<sup>th</sup> December. This is a great initiative and will give the school much needed funds to upgrade some of our facilities.

During the holidays John Hastings and Geoff Halliday spent much time attending to maintenance and facilities jobs that are difficult to carry out during school hours. They began a clean up program of any graffiti and / or markings off the buildings, painting of the gym and canteen doors, remaking of hopscotch and four square courts, as well as general clean up of garden beds and playgrounds. We thank them for their work. It was really good to come back this week and see things looking so fresh.

Also, 2 new rainwater tanks were installed to collect water from the roof of the School Hall. This will provide much needed water for future use.

## Homework

As advised in the end of term 1 newsletter, this term we are going to be conducting a Homework Detention time at lunch time for students in the Middle and Senior school who have not attended to Homework tasks as set by teachers. The Homework detention will be held in the Middle School computer room at lunch times on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In addition students may choose to come in and complete homework during their lunch break on these days, thus having an opportunity to use the computers if required.

## School Car Park

A friendly reminder to parents/carers that the school car park is only for the use of school staff, visitors to the school and Community Library patrons. There is ample space on North Terrace for parents to park when dropping off and collecting children – we seek your support in relation to children's safety.

Monica Williams

## **CONNECTING SPIRITS CD LAUNCH**

Rita Lindsay and Flo Bourke both attended the 2006 Connecting Spirits tour and were so moved by their experiences that they expressed many of their thoughts and feelings in music. As a group we knew that what they had written was excellent and, for us at least, had real meaning. This was supported further when the girls had a workshop with Eric Bogle who listened to their music and gave them some advice. His comment was that this music needed to be heard and suggested that we invest in making a quality recording of these songs. Connecting Spirits contacted Gavin O'Loughlen from Locrian music who booked the girls in for recording sessions earlier this year. The CD was finally ready to be launched just in time for Anzac Day.

It was launched at an event that was held at the Irish Club last Wednesday night. It was standing room only as we sold out all available tickets. The launch was attended by a number of dignitaries from various government agencies and included Jock Statton, who is the President of the SA and NT Branch of the RSL, and the Mark Goldsworthy, the member for Kavel in State parliament.

Rita and Flo each performed 2 of their songs live while another 2 of each of their songs was presented in a multimedia display which used images and video from the 2008 tour. As well as this, presentations of memorial cards were made to some of the relatives of soldiers we had commemorated on our last tour. Many of the students attending the 2010 tour helped serve food and beverages to the audience while 2008 members were available to talk to about their experiences.

The night proved to very successful and these two young women can be very proud of their work.

The night made a positive impression on many people and one was so moved he emailed Julie and myself as soon as he got home. I have included part of his email below.

*"Dear Julie, Mal and all the students of Birdwood High School and Meningie Area School,*

*My e-mail is to thank you for a memorable night when the CD "Songs of Remembrance" was launched.*

*As a conscripted Vietnam Veteran, I have been given new hope in the knowledge that our younger generation know the terrible cost war has on a community but it is the healing process that comes with remembrance and acknowledgement of those who died and suffered. I am also pleased that the project your team has embarked on is inclusive of this nation's true heritage; our fellow Aboriginal people. Well done.*

*When Rita Lindsay sang "Aboriginal Soldiers", her song was uplifting and she sang from the heart. I spoke to her*

when she signed my CD and she is a fine woman and stands tall and proud. "Well done".

Flo Bourke has so much maturity and ability and her potential to reach out to others through her music is an inspiration to all.

I am sure with talking more with Eric Bogle there are more offerings to come from these two wonderful ladies of song and music.

You can now see how last night's presentation left me deeply impressed and moved.

Please convey my expressed sincere congratulation to ALL students and others involved with the program "Connecting Spirits". To the students who hosted the night and served eats and drinks, I would also like to say a big "thank you".

I guess it can be said this is now a continuum and the next group to visit the French and Belgium battlefields and war memorials will also make their mark in our Australian cultural heritage  
Thank you all again

Trevor Shinnick  
Vietnam Veteran"

Copies of the CD are available at \$20 each at the front office of the school and will also be available at other outlets around the town.

I have received an email from Carl Parr from northern England who had recently visited Flanders and saw some of our remembrance cards left at the graves of our soldiers.

"Hello and greetings from an unseasonably warm Northern England

I have recently returned from a battlefield trip to France and Flanders and on the run up to ANZAC day I thought you might be interested to know that both myself and the three friends who accompanied me on the trip were very impressed by the tributes left by yourselves to honour 2nd Lt Theodore Pflaum at Lijssenthoek cemetery and Pte Charles Foster at Oxford Road cemetery.

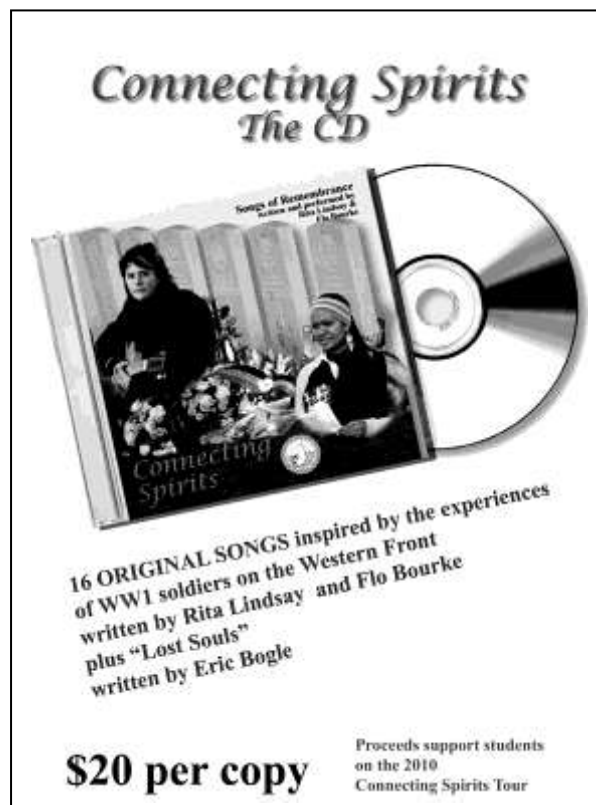
I have just made a quick visit to your excellent website, a fitting tribute to your local boys who gave their lives so willingly so far from home, and I will be regularly visiting it again.

I had three relatives (brothers) who served on the front line in WW1, only one of whom survived, the other two having no known graves and are commemorated on the Arras memorial wall.

We must never forget the sacrifice of that generation, and of the next in WW2, to secure our futures  
Best wishes and good luck on future trips  
Carl Parr"



Rita singing during the launch



## MT BARKER SHOW PRIME LAMB COMPETITION

Once again Meningie Area School entered teams in the Mt. Barker Show Prime Lamb Competition. This is part of the Year 11 and 12 Ag classes curriculum as students learn to assess sheep and to make decisions about choosing teams of 3 lambs that are even and meet the requirements of the competition, similar to the process used for selecting sheep to be sold.

Due to a poor lambing percentage last year we were short on numbers and Anthony Pearce from Meningie Fodder generously supported us with some of his lambs. After weighing the lambs and assessing them for condition the students worked together to select 2 teams of 3 lambs that would be suitable. Matt Eckert and Hamish Jurgs gave up a Sunday morning to shear the lambs to ensure that they looked their best.

On Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> the sheep were taken to the showgrounds at Murray Bridge where they were judged

on the hoof. We did very well here taking out 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 25kg and above Oak Meat Elite Lamb class.

The lambs were then taken to the abattoir for slaughter and on hook judging. Unfortunately despite very little feed in the paddock our lambs were in too good condition and we didn't get a place in this part of the competition.

Thank you again to Anthony for his support and to Hamish and Matt for shearing the lambs. Anthony has also donated a Hampshire Ram to the school and the first lambs from him are about to drop so we will see how we go next year.



*The 1<sup>st</sup> place pen of sheep*

**ROTARY AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND  
SHORT TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE**

Rotary D9520 is seeking applications for the 2009/10 Short Term Youth Exchange Program involving attendance at a New Zealand school in Term 3 2010. It also involves the reciprocal hosting by the family of a New Zealand student here during Term 2 2010.

Expression of Interest Application Forms are available from the school. These forms outline in detail the Exchange Program, relevant dates and costs. Each participating student must be sponsored by a local Rotary Club – assistance here will be given by the Rotary Committee.

Graeme Dodsworth  
Chair  
D9520 Rotary Australia New Zealand Youth  
PO Box 232  
GLEN OSMOND 5064  
[gidod@chariot.net.au](mailto:gidod@chariot.net.au)



**TEAM SAILING 2009**

During the school holidays an intrepid group of travellers travelled from Meningie and Mount Gambier to sail for the school as part of the Secondary Schools Team Sailing State Championship at Victor Harbor. The regatta comprised 23 teams with many city and country schools involved. Each team has six people on the water at a time with a maximum of ten people named on the registration sheet.

The weather was accommodating with steady winds and not too big swells. The regatta is sailed in Pacer boats and our sailing club and school took along our fleet of 6 boats and our tinny to be part of the competition. The competition needed 5 fleets of boats and 60 officials each day to run. Our ex-students and parents contributed greatly to this by umpiring, being on the start boat and generally helping out. Our students sailed extremely well finishing equal third in the Regatta Pool behind Walford Gold and Victor Harbor Sharks. The Championship Group was won by St Josephs (Port Lincoln) and second placed was Kangaroo Island Juliet team from Kangaroo Island Community School. These results show that our south east region consisting of Victor, KI and us has indeed achieved great results. Our school team consisted of Michelle Crossman (skipper), Josh Wright (skipper), Oliver Crossman (skipper), Lauren Bagshaw and Tessa Bagshaw was augmented with Kaneta Marin and Tom Saunders from Mount Gambier North Primary and Jed from KI. The skippers did well training and encouraging their crews and the crews showed increasing skill and courage over the course of the 3 day regatta battling strong winds to hold boats down, launching over the wave break in the rubber ducky, moving from the rubber ducky to the dinghies and transferring back, and learning all the new rules. Our thanks go to Mr Woolston for his encouragement and involvement, Mrs Wright for her organisation and our parents and families for their help and guidance. Congratulations again to the students on their excellent sailing with minimal practice due to lack of water. They represented us well as a school community with skill, positive attitudes and enthusiasm.

We look forward to during the up coming sailing season to introducing the love of sailing and team sailing in particular to more students through the school and sailing club events. Please ask about these events if you or your child is interested.



*TheTeam*



*Heading out to race*

## STUDENTS HAVING A SAY

As part of the student involvement at Meningie Area School students have the opportunity to be involved on committees, help with fund raising and voice their opinions about aspects of the school that affect them. This term we have called for interested students from Year 8 to Year 12 to come to meetings to share ideas. The first meeting was on Wednesday lunchtime and 16 students attended.

We will have another meeting in a fortnight's time on Wednesday lunchtime of Week 3. All interested students can come along so that we can achieve more, and have new and interesting perspectives from any students who have ideas to share. This group of students will form part of our students' representation to the school body.

Anne Wright

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Catalogues for Scholastic Books (e.g. Lucky, Arrow, Wombat, Star, etc) were sent home on Tuesday of this week.



Orders (with payment) can be made at the book room until the end of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## NAPLAN 2009

The NAPLAN tests for 2009 will be held from Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May.

Information regarding NAPLAN was in the previous edition of the Newsletter.

Please see Page 6 for the 2009 NAPLAN timetable.

## NOW IS THE TIME for a GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Australian families needed to share life  
with international exchange students (15 to 18)



from

Germany Italy  
France Finland  
Sweden Holland

Bring Europe into your life  
July 2009

Overseas families continue to welcome  
Australian exchange students.

## SHOW THE WORLD WE VALUE FRIENDSHIP TOO

SOUTHERN  
CROSS  
CULTURAL  
EXCHANGE

1800 500 501



Back to school asthma warning!

Among pre-school and primary school-age children, rates of hospital visits for asthma are highest in February and May.  
(Asthma in Australia 2008)

The reasons for the increase in hospital and emergency visits during this time of year is largely unknown, however it is thought likely to be related to a high prevalence of respiratory viral infections, particularly the common cold around this time. Peaks in hospital admission for asthma are reached within 3-5 weeks of returning to school from summer holidays, usually in February and again in May. The rise may also be related to the increase in social contacts at this time.

It is therefore important for teachers and parents/ carers to be prepared!

## FREE INFORMATION EVENING IN ADELAIDE – MAY 7, 2009

- Come and meet our staff
- Hear comprehensive information on all aspects of exchange
- Ask questions
- Listen to questions asked by other students and parents, and
- Meet other students who are considering going on exchange
- Scholarships available!



7:30pm

Thursday 7 May

Rydges South Park

1 South Terrace

Adelaide

[www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)

1300 135 331 (cost of a local call)