Dates to Remember

March
- Mon 14th: Labor Day
- Thurs 17th: Close the Gap Day
- Fri 18th: Autumn Festival Set-Up 12pm
- Sat 19th: Autumn Festival
- Tues 22nd: Year 4 - 6 Athletics
- Thurs 24th: Last Day of Term 1
- Fri 25th: Good Friday

April
- Mon 11th: First Day of Term 2
- Weds 13th – Fri 15th: Gr 5 EarthKeeper’s Camp
- Mon 18th to Weds 20th: ANZAC Day
- Mon 25th: District Athletics
- Thurs 28th: Prep to Two Athletics Day

May
- Tues 3rd: Yr 1 & 2 National Gallery Excursion
- Thurs 5th: School Photos
- Tues 10th & Weds 11th: NAPLAN

Have you volunteered yet?

We need as many parent helpers as possible to ensure our Autumn Festival runs smoothly. If you can give an hour on the day of the festival, please add your name to our sign-up sheets at the School Office. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist at our food stalls, including Sushi, Pizza Making, Cake Stall, Hamburgers, Corn on the Cob and at our Second-Hand Clothing Stall. We also need helpers to set up on Friday the 18th, from 12pm. The volunteer list for Friday is also at the office. Thank you in advance!
From the Principal...

Thought for the week: “Optimism and humour are the grease and glue of life.” Philip Butler

What a fantastic community we have here at The Patch. This term has really proven that, from our Getting to Know You Interviews, our Social Night, Prep Picnic, Community Groups and now in the lead up to the Autumn Festival. It is truly special to have so many parents and friends willing to help out and lend a hand when we need it.

Our Community Groups are off to a roaring start, with over 50 people already signed up! Information about our Autumn Festival will be coming home next week, so keep your eyes peeled for a note in your child’s bag. We are currently investigating a way to set up our volunteer roster online, so you’ll be able to put down your name without having to come into the office. Thank you to Lucy for this great suggestion!

Welcome to our new School Council members for 2016! This year we are excited to have Tamara Adams and Brian Macallan joining our ranks, and Elke Evans stepping in as Vice President. This year we have Sarah Tebbutt returning as President, Steve McDonald as Treasurer and Susan Sturt as Secretary. I would like to welcome back our other returning School Council members, Lynne Davidson, Clare Pritchard and Linda McBride. Many thanks are due to our exiting members, Kim Bright, Nick Morrison, Caroline Schmidli and Nicola Ryan for their time and support on School Council.

Good luck to our amazing Swim Team as they represent us at Regional level on Monday at Ringwood Aquatic. We wish Molly, Hamish, Callum, Jake, Tameem, Tim, Logan, Ryan and Nathan all the best!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Deb-

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Traffic issues and parking at The Patch School

For over twenty years The Patch School has discussed, designed and implemented strategies to deal with the problem of insufficient parking on the school site. School council and local government recognise the issues around congestion and its impact on our neighbours, walker safety and movement through the school but whilst the situation is not ideal, if we all work together we have a very safe and efficient system for dropping off and picking up our students.

In the mornings, students are required to be at school by 8.50am. There is a teacher from the Year 1/2 level who is rostered on duty to ensure that the traffic is moving smoothly and children are exiting their cars safely. This means all children step out onto the footpath and no-one leaves their car unattended. Sometimes young children take longer to do this and we need to exercise patience and tolerance despite the inconvenience.

In the afternoon, it is by nature much busier. Students should be at the drop off area by 3.30pm. They are organised into their year levels with the preps at the bottom of the hill and the 5/6’s at the top near the shelter shed. Siblings are required to stand together with the class of the youngest child.

The majority of teachers are on site in the afternoon. Students are asked to look up the hill for their expectant vehicle, to walk along the yellow painted line down the hill to their vehicle when it arrives, to keep social chatter to a minimum and to abstain from organising play events whilst getting in and out of cars.

It is a busy but efficient system when all students are up on time, parents drive slowly and safely and continue around the circuit if their child/children are not in attendance. Please remind your child to move quickly to their car, wait in their correct position and to be at the drop off on time. The entire school can be collected within 10 minutes if parents only need to go around the drive once.

Parking is in limited supply. The gravel carpark is a relatively new addition to provide additional parking for parents on the higher area, and staff in the lower area (below chain gate). This lower area is treacherous in the wetter months and we have had many cars bogged when they park on the grass.

The gravel surface requires ongoing maintenance and drainage issues are problematic but it does provide much needed car parking space and most users recognise that due to the congestion within the parking area and on the road, it is best to use this area if you can wait until last to leave.

The parking behind the hall is reserved for the kinder and OSHC staff and the lower carpark is reserved for staff in the year 5/6 level and art/music. As you are aware, the main staff car park is a no go zone for students.

Please respect these designated areas as they serve a specific need and purpose.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the tolerance and patience of all our parents and friends who use our drop off and parking areas appropriately. You set a fine example and demonstrate to your children, and others, the safe behaviours we wish to embed in everyone.

Thank you for your co-operation,
Michelle Rayner (Assistant Principal)
**Secondhand Clothing Needed!**

The Autumn Festival is approaching very quickly and we are once again looking forward to having a secondhand clothing stall. We would love it if you could do a summer clean out and pass on any adults and children's clothing you have no need for any longer. Please no underwear, or stained / badly damaged clothing. Tubs have been set up in the school foyer for your donations. Thank you in advance 😊

**Cake Stall Information**

**Tuesday 15th March**
- Packaging and recipe ideas come home.
- Start thinking about what delicious recipe/s you’re going to bake
- Check what ingredients need to go on the shopping list.

**Thursday 17th / Friday 18th**
**HOME BAKING DAYS**

**Friday 18th and Saturday 19th**
Cakes to be delivered to school
Feel good about your contribution!

**Saturday 19th**
Visit the cake stall to buy yourself a treat, you deserve it!

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the stall so put your name down at the office if you can help out!
Scholastic Book Club

A friendly reminder the closing date for all Scholastic orders is 10 March.
Order online at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the LOOP app.

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, LOOP makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our iPhone and iPad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android.

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogues
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
Congratulations to all students awarded certificates at assembly. Special congratulations to our 2016 Monitors and Club Members! Well done!
New Community Groups at The Patch School

Well what an amazing community we have here at The Patch! Our recent call out for volunteers has been met with unparalleled results and we now have 23 official groups that will address specific needs of our school.

Here is the current list of groups, if you would like to add your name to any of the groups, please email me (rayner.michelle.t@edumail.vic.gov.au) - I would love to hear from you. We are still looking for volunteer class representatives; preferably two per class. These valuable parents will provide important links between the teacher and the parents and will improve communication and class help.

- Art Group
- Pizza Oven Group
- Scholastic Book Club Group
- Publicity Group
- Well-Being Group
- Friend-Raising Group
- School Council Representative
- Class Representatives
- Events Groups
- Animal Carers Group
- School Banking Group
- OSHC Group
- Weed Group
- Uniform Group
- Edible Garden Group
- Buildings & Groups Group
- Chook Group
- Willow Weavers Group
- Kinder Liaison Group
- Working Bee Group
- Food Forest Group
- Grant/Award Application Group
- Fundraising Group
Cooper was entered into the Beef Cattle Young Paraders Competition. This competition is open to men and women in the cattle industry aged 25 and under. The competitors are judged on their handling skills, so it has nothing to do with the cattle. They need to have their animal prepared and clean to go into the show ring, they need to have excellent control over their animal, regardless of its behaviour, they need to be presented in a certain way in terms of their dress and have the animals leather halter and brass clean. As well as trying to keep their animal under control, they need to have their eyes on the judge at all times, no matter where he/she is standing, or how their animal is behaving (but you must have control whilst doing this).

The competitors come out in different “classes”, so both Bella and Cooper came first in their respective classes (with the judge later commenting that either could easily come and work for him at any price they name!!). At the end of all the classes, all first ribbon winners reenter the show ring to compete against each other and the Champion handler is selected.

This is an extremely great achievement for Cooper to win, as he was competing against young men and women in their 20’s who work with cattle as their full time job 7 days a week and have many more years’ experience than him. It was also challenging for him, as he lead an animal he had never worked, or bonded with before his class, and then with a second unfamiliar animal in the Championship class. He managed to calm each animal down, and had them trusting him the whole time, as he walked, very relaxed yet with an air of confidence around the show ring. By winning this title, gives him extra credit to his name, and he will receive extra work for himself and his own stud (Cooperay Livestock) where people pay him to work with and show their cattle.

He received his ribbons, a glass trophy, $150 gift voucher to spend at Pakenham produce, some cash and about $500 worth of products (drenching guns, drench, work shirts etc) We are extremely proud of how hard he works, and how confident and dedicated he is to doing what he loves.

All of his winning money he banks, to support his business, Cooperay Livestock, so that he can eventually expand into breeding his cattle and specialising in AI, preg testing and embryo flushing.

Words by Gayle Postlethwaite
Tarquin’s Amazing Apple!

Tarquin from Grade 3 has grown a record sized apple! His father grafted the Pittmaston Pineapple (heritage variety) and they are growing it in an espalier at the front of their house.

Tarquin decided to bring it to school to share with his friends. What fantastic gardening!

School Uniforms

Since its introduction, Qkr has proven to be the easiest and most effective way for our school community to pay for items & activities.

To make the most of this efficient process, the Uniform Shop will only be accepting orders placed via Qkr from the beginning of the 2016 school year. Also starting this year, all second hand items from the uniform shop will be $4. The profit collected from the sale of uniform items is fed back into the community.

If you have any questions please direct them to: uniforms@thepatchps.vic.edu.au

Thank you 😊
CHAPERONE REQUIRED
THE 28th ASIAN PACIFIC CHILDREN'S CONVENTION,
FUKUOKA JAPAN - JULY 2016

Each year, 6 children are selected by the Australia Japan Society of Victoria (AJSV) to attend the Asian Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan. A chaperone is required to assist the AJSV Liaison officer with the briefing and preparations for the visit as well as attending the convention. The chaperone will be responsible for the care of the children, both while travelling and in Japan (approx. two weeks), assisted by a Peace Ambassador. Whilst in Japan, the chaperone will fully participate in the APCC program including homestay with a Japanese family, school visit, camp and other events/activities organised by the APCC/host families. There is no opportunity for independent travel or sightseeing during the convention. Meals, accommodation and transport whilst in Japan are provided.

Final dates of this year’s convention will not be known until late May however, it will be from approximately 10 July to 24 July (approx.) and does not fully coincide with Australian school holidays. It should be noted that this is a voluntary position and it is anticipated that the selected person will have experience with children, particularly those in upper primary school.

Airfares and travel insurance will be covered by AJSV but AJSV membership, spending money, passports etc are the responsibility of the selected person. A Working with Children's check will be required prior to the trip. Japanese language will be an advantage but is not essential but interest in Japan is essential!

Expressions of interest in this position should be forwarded, together with a brief resume to the Australia Japan Society of Victoria office no later than 4.00pm on Monday, March 7th, 2016. Applications should include relevant experience with upper Primary School aged children, details of past travel including Japan as well as any other relevant qualifications. You should also provide your reasons for wishing to be part of the program. Short listed applicants will be invited to an interview with members of AJSV Committee of Management. Interviews will be arranged following this date. Male and female applicants are encouraged as the six children consist of three boys and three girls.

Information about the APCC can be found at AJSV website. For further information, please email Heather Darbyshire (AJSV-APCC Liaison Officer) at apcc.australia@gmail.com
Important QkR Lunch Order Tips

To ensure your child’s receives their lunch order, could you please:

- Order via QkR **no later than 9.30am** on the day of the order or personally at The Patch Store/Sushi Express
- Be sure your child’s class is correct in QkR (and update each year)
- Check your receipt to ensure the order & payment have processed correctly

The Patch Store and Sushi Express thank you for all your support with the school lunch program.

Thank you,
The Staff at The Patch Store and Sushi Express

Is Your Family Entitled to the CSEF?

The Victorian Government has put in place the **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** for eligible beneficiaries. This program provides $125 per child to be used to pay any of the above activities. For further information on the CSEF and an application form, please visit [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1#link80](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1#link80)

If you have any questions about CSEF, please contact the school.

Parking Restrictions Behind the Hall

Please note that there is **no parking behind the Hall**. This is a staff only area and we ask parents and visitors to use the gravel car park behind the shelter shed or parallel parking spaces along the ring road. Thank you for your co-operation 😊
Paying Cash at School

As we are fast becoming a cashless school, we do not hold any change on the premises. If you are needing to pay cash at school you will need to ensure you have the correct amount as we are unable to give change. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONTACTING OSHC

To contact OSHC staff during program hours please call the main school telephone number **9756 7463** and select Option 1 to be directed to the OSHC landline.

If this line is unavailable, please call the mobile **0419 515 494** and, if there is no answer, feel free to leave a message.

Also call this number during school hours and you will be re-directed to the OSHC Voicemail. Staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you 😊
Monbulk & District Community Bank ® Branch

CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM WITH THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Good for your School

We will reward The Patch Primary School by contributing funds for each new loan, credit card, personal account or everyday account opened at Monbulk & District Community Bank ® Branch.

When banking with us your school will receive:

Product Contribution
Bendigo Home Loan $500
Bendigo Personal Loan $250
Insurance Cover $100
New Business Account $50
Appointment with Financial Planner $50
New Personal Account $25
New Term Deposit over $10,000 $25

It starts with U

The more banking you do with Monbulk & District Community Bank ®, the more you and your school will benefit.

We look forward to presenting you with a large cheque in the near future.

Please pop into our branch at 70 Main Rd, Monbulk or phone 97521130 for more information.

Offer valid for eligible products taken out at Monbulk & District Community Bank® Branch. Terms, conditions, fees, charges and eligibility criteria apply. All loans subject to the bank’s normal lending criteria. Rewards are capped at $1,000.00 per customer.
FREE GIRLS FOOTY CLINICS AT UPWEY TECOMA JFC

SUITABLE FOR GIRLS AGES 7+

6PM - 7PM
29 FEB, 7 MAR, 14 MAR, 21 MAR

TALASKIA RESERVE, UPPER FERNTREE GULLY

REGISTER BY EMAIL
GIRLSFOOTY@UTJFC.COM
PLEASE INCLUDE PLAYER NAME & AGE

AUSSIE HOOPS

TERM 1-2 2016

AUSSIE HOOPS is Basketball Australia’s official junior game development program for children aged 5—10 years.

PROGRAM DETAILS

WHEN: From Sat. 13th February - Sat. 19th March; Sat. 16th April - Sat. 23rd April (No sessions on Sat. 12th March—Labor Day)

WHERE: Monbulk College Stadium David Hill Road, Monbulk Mel Ref 311 J3

TIME: 10:00am until 10:45am (approx.)

COST: $70 for new players
$50 for returning players

FURTHER INFORMATION
Email: hoops@sherbrookebasketball.asn.au or juniors@sherbrookebasketball.asn.au

All Participants Receive:
1 x Peak Aussie Hoops backpack
1 x Spalding size 5 Aussie Hoops basketball
1 x Peak Aussie Hoops reversible singlet.

#UTJFCGIRLS #GIRLSCAN

Find us on: Facebook.
MARCH 18-19-20

THE BASIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Over 140 acts in seven venues

A non-profit community music festival run by volunteers - thank you!

Rock, Country, Blues, Jazz, Metal, Folk, World, and more!

Tickets available at the festival:
$15/day or $25/weekend

Featuring great food and market in a beautiful park with an awesome playground, surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants and taverns, plus...

- Children’s activities
- Ruccis Circus
- Buskers’ Corner
- Poets’ Breakfast
- Melbourne Transformers

Free music in the park and the cafes!

$ The taverns are ticketed venues and open until late.

thebasinmusicfestival.org.au

Mountain Highway and Forest Road, The Basin
Performance schedule and venues subject to change.

Find us on Facebook

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Past, present and future applications for a healthier planet

With presentations from:
- David Rothfield and Peter Castaldo from B.Z.E.
- Electric cars on display

Saturday, 5th March 2016

Venue: The Hub
Cnr Main & Moores rd
Monbulk
Melways Map 124H

Program:
9:45 Arrival for 10.00am start
10-11 Overview of Renewables
Global perspectives, plan for zero carbon Australia
11-11.20 Light refreshments
11.20-12 Optimising solar systems and being battery ready
12-12.15 A.G.M

B.Z.E. – Beyond Zero Emissions is a non-government not-for-profit think tank providing solutions to government and business in the renewable energy sector. Amongst their achievements is a comprehensive, costed plan for a Zero Carbon Australia by 2030 as well as an independent feasibility study into a fast rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane completed by 2025.

David Rothfield is a Civil Engineer and horticulturist and a former resident of The Hills with an avid interest in renewables and a zero carbon future. Peter Castaldo has extensive experience with solar energy systems.


Contributing Organisations

This workshop is sponsored by Monbulk Landcare and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.
Enquiries mobile: 0430214696
Boys for Beginners

FREE WORKSHOP

Want to understand the ‘nature’ of boys? To improve communication with them? Overwhelmed by their non-stop energy?

Join us to learn tips and new strategies to better understand and nurture your sons.

Mondays from 7pm to 9pm
15 Feb to 21 March (excluding 14 March)
5 sessions

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

These two-hour ‘Boys for Beginners’ sessions are held at The Patch Primary School, 53 Kallista-Emerald Road, The Patch

For more info: Helena Laverie at Anglicare Victoria 9735 6134 or 0488 501 204 anglicarevic.org.au
Remember your weekly school banking is collected on a **Wednesday**.

Every time you deposit you will receive a sticker for your certificate and with only 6 stickers per term you will receive a prize at the end of term.

Application forms and certificates are available at the school office.

By banking with Bendigo Bank you also support all the animals at the Monbulk Wildlife Shelter.

Have fun saving and don’t forget you can contact us at the Bank with any questions at all 😊

Monbulk & District **Community Bank®** Branch
70 Main Street, Monbulk, VIC 3793
P 03 9752 1130
E monbulkmailbox@bendigoadaelaide.com.au
The Importance of Attendance

Please remember that all students are expected to be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons by 8.50am. We understand that now and again things don’t go to plan but all families should aim for their children to be at school by this time.

Parents should also remember that late arrivals or early leavers must be signed in or out by their parent or guardian using the VPASS system on the iPad at the office. The appropriate orange or yellow tag must also be given to the classroom teacher when collecting your child.

The Department of Education & Training has very specific expectations about school attendance and we ask that all parents be mindful of the importance of prompt and regular attendance at school.

Thank you.

Community Notices

In Schools Music
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba, Drums, Percussion, and Bass Guitar. New students. Enrolments to Andrew McAlister on 0408467147 or email ismusic@bigpond.com

Music Tuition with Chris Walker
Lessons in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after.
Phone 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Violin, Viola & Cello Lessons
Lessons are available at school on Fridays with experienced strings teacher Jane Coleman.
For further information call: 0431 290 396 or email: janeliz.coleman@gmail.com. Be quick as there is currently only a small number of places available for new pupils.

Private Ukulele Lessons
The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons, starting next term on Mondays, from week 2 onwards. The Patch School parent, Jess Dunn, has had 5 years’ experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and is looking forward to teaching at The Patch. The cost is $14 for a 20 minute individual lesson or $10 for a paired lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email. 0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com.au

Cardio Tennis
Run during the school terms, this fun and energetic cardio workout to music, allows you to get great exercise whilst hitting the ball! Run by me, you will be instructed through a warm-up, tennis drills, and fun tennis games. 9:30-10:30am Tuesdays at The Patch Tennis Club (not on if it’s raining). All standards welcome. You don’t even have to have played before!
Contact Renae on 0403 498085.

Group Piano Lessons
To complement the existing piano and music programs at the school, group keyboard lessons are available for kids from Grade 1 to Grade 6. Groups of 2 or 3 children (of similar ages) will learn piano and music-reading skills in a fun and inspiring way.
$15 per child for half an hour. Classes are within school time. Teacher: Fiona Seers (Sadie and Charlie Mustoe’s Mum) has over 20 years teaching experience and a love and passion for music education. To enquire about booking a spot for your child please call Fiona on 0438 833 592 or email fionaseers@hotmail.com