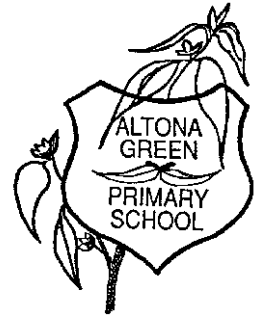


# Altona Green Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER

Issue 03/09  
19 February, 2009

Our newsletter is being sponsored by those advertising within. They have entered a commercial contract with the school for this advertising. We have no other direct links with them, and our policy is not to encourage or direct our school community to use a particular product or company.

### *A Message From Karen...*

Our School's **Welcome Picnic** is next Wednesday evening. We hope to see many 'new' and 'not-so-new' faces there. It has become an annual event on our calendar and is a great way to come together as a school community to celebrate the start of the school year and to get to know our new families. This year it will be evident how fortunate our school community is as we think about some schools in Victoria who have to start all over again. It was an amazing outcome for our school last Friday with our students raising: \$1411.40 for the Bushfire Relief. We are currently discussing ways in which our school community could support/adopt another school community affected by the tragic events in a real and practical sense to assist them in re-building not only their facilities but their community spirit.

### School Council Elections

At the close of nominations last Thursday, I received nomination forms from the following individuals who are elected to School Council. As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, in any category, an election was not required. On behalf of our school community I would like to congratulate:

#### Elected for 2 years

Glenn Pike	Marita Ryan
Louise Nicol	Elena Ashley
Nola Byrne	Debbie McKenna

#### Elected for 1 year

Sue Downey

#### Other Members of Council whose term ends at the end of 2009

Colleen Harmer	Carmel Nash	Barbara Holmes
Andrea Edwards	Debbie Markovic	

### Current Community Member of Council

Lynne Bernardi (Parents Club Representative)

### Principal/Executive Officer

Karen O'Dowd

School Council will be meeting on the following dates:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2 March	27 April	20 July	12 October
30 March	1 June	17 August	9 November
			30 November

I thank you all for volunteering your time and energy to benefit all the students at our school.

Thanks to all our retiring School Council members: **Kim Brown, Paul McNamara, Karen Mackay and Gray Barton**

Your efforts, commitment, humour, support and friendship over your years on School Council has all been very much appreciated. All of you contributed on some special issue: Paul and Gray - Building and grounds development, Karen - establishment of our Before and After care program and Kim - leadership of the Events Group. Special thanks to **Paul McNamara**, our retiring Community Representative who has clocked up over 10 years on the Altona Green PS council - a mighty effort!

Paul has seen his 2 daughters go through our school and has had input in shaping many programs, policies and initiatives along the way. The amazing thing is that many would not realise that Paul continued being on our School Council as a Community Rep long past his children going off to secondary school. Thanks Paul for your efforts and leadership for all children at our school. Your family's connection to our school community is a connection that we aim for with all our families.

*Karen O'Dowd*

### School Injuries and Insurance

Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other insurance cover available?

Yes.

The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd and Willis Australia Ltd, that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

### Bushfire Appeal

- Our 'Out of Uniform Day' raised \$1411.40 Thankyou Altona Green Primary School students, parents and community for being so caring and very generous.
- Raffle tickets have been sent home with every family. Tickets are \$1.00 and the winner will be drawn at the family picnic night. All proceeds will go to the Bushfire Appeal.
- St Thomas Anglican Church is collecting tools (small and large) in good working order - cordless drills, drill bits, spades, rakes, screwdrivers, spanners, work gloves, hammers, nails, screws, etc.  
Take a look in your sheds and spare just a few [or purchase something new] and bring it along between 9am and 2pm on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February** to **St. Thomas Anglican Church** Cnr Synnot & Greaves Streets, Werribee 3030 or call Julian 0409 169 728 or Cathy 0427 127 633

### Fresh Fruit Friday

Fresh Fruit Friday for our Prep and Junior children will begin tomorrow. Thank you to those parents who offered to assist with the cutting up of fruit, all volunteers are greatly appreciated. Please meet in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen at 9:00am. Cutting usually takes about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or even quicker if we get lots of help. ☺

### Assembly

Our first assembly for the year will be this Friday at 3:00pm in the gymnasium. The assembly will be hosted by Junior A.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**This is the last week to complete an EMA application.** The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (**28 January 2009** which is the first day for teaching staff)

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

### Bayside Festival Swimming

Great to see so many of our students interested in competing at the Bayside Festival Swimming competition on Friday night 13<sup>th</sup> March. If you are intending to enter please get entries in to Raelene by this Friday so we have time to organise our relay teams.

The competition is open to all school children and consists of 25m or 50m freestyle races in ages groups from 7 & under to 11 & over. The competition is lots of fun and a great way to represent our school.

### Point Cook Points

To kick off the school year Point Cook Town Centre is giving away \$2000! The school that redeems the most receipts between 16/02/2009 and 16/03/2009 will win \$2000. During this time you can earn **TRIPLE POINTS** for your school by shopping in any of the Fashion, Home wares or Giftware stores.

For those new to the school, every dollar spent at the Point Cook Town Centre can earn points for our school. Just drop your receipt into the information booth located in the Target precinct. If you prefer to hang on to your receipt they will exchange it for a voucher.

### 2nd Hand Uniform Sale

We will be holding a second hand uniform in the office foyer this Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 3.00 -3.30. All items will be \$2.00.

### Classroom Clippings

#### Juniors

A big thanks to all the parents that took the time to come up for Parent Teacher Contact - it was much appreciated by the team. This is the first week that homework has been sent home for the term. If you have any queries regarding the homework please see your child's teacher.

### The War against Headlice

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on human for 10 000 years. You may be reassured to know that they are commonly found in places other than Altona Green Primary School.

Some of the reasons they have survived for as long as they have are:

- The six legs of a louse end in a claw, allowing them to grip the hair.
- They detect vibration and can hide - (conditioner will help fix this problem)
- Head lice can 'hold' their breath for 20 mins - looking like they are dead.
- The eggs are attached to the hair with a 'glue' like substance. Studies conducted on 45 different products to dissolve the 'glue' showed **nothing** would dissolve it.

#### The good news...

We know where they live and we know how to find them.

If you follow these steps, once a week, the control of head lice in your home will be greatly improved.

**Step1** Comb inexpensive hair conditioner on to **dry, brushed (detangled) hair**. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around;

**Step 2** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue;

**Step 3** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs;

**Step 4** If lice or eggs are found, the child should be treated;

**Step 5** If the child has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat since the eggs could be from the old infection.

If your child has head lice - tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them and **ask them to check their family for head lice**.

## Community Notices

### 4<sup>th</sup> Altona Sea Scouts

#### Pines Scout Camp, Altona Road

#### 'Scouts' - Joeys, Cubs and Scouts

The 4<sup>th</sup> Altona Sea Scouts would like to invite the boys and girls in our community to come and try Scouting.

'Joey Scouts' - For boys & girls aged 6 to 8 years old

Tuesday Nights 5:45 to 6:45pm

'Cub Scouts' - For boys & girls aged 7½ to 11 years old

Tuesday Nights 7:00 to 8:30pm

'Scouts' - For boys & girls aged 11 to 15 years old

Wednesday Nights

Please feel free to come along and participate in a Pack Meeting and experience the exciting activities and games 'Scouts' have to offer.

During a Pack Meeting the children participate in a range of activities as they work towards their badges, venture on excursions around our local community or into Melbourne and occasionally attend camps.

For more information call Sandra Stone - Cub Scout Leader (9398 - 3893)

### Laverton Park Tennis Club - OPEN DAY

The club is gearing up for Winter Season 2009 and we are always looking for new players and members to grow and take our club forward. If you may be interested in playing tennis, whether you are a social player, a player looking to play in a high division or anywhere in between we would love to have you at Laverton Park Tennis Club.

We are holding our Open Day on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 2:00pm until 5:00pm, at our Merton Street clubroom (between Railway & Hall Avenue's).

We would like to invite everyone down to the clubroom to see what we have to offer.

Laverton Park Tennis Club,  
Merton Street, Altona Meadows 3028  
Web site: [www.lptc.org.au](http://www.lptc.org.au)

For queries contact Club President Brendan O'Brien:  
Phone: 0407 552 828

### ALTONA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

**Registration day:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

**Time:** 10am to 4pm

**Venue:** Altona Football Club (Social Rooms)  
Grant Reserve, Sugargum Drive Altona (Melway Ref 54G9)

Please bring Birth Certificate or Passport for proof of age. Training will commence on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm.

Come along and enjoy a free sausage sizzle and drinks for the kids on the day.

Contact Leanne (0402 300 890) or Eleanor (0431 527 362) for further details.

### Net-Set-Go

Altona Netball Centre is running a beginners program for girls and boys 6 years to under 12. This is a 9 week course featuring skills learning and court play. Cost \$77 per child and includes VNA registration.

Enquiries to Marilyn or Renate on 9360 9288 between 10-4 Monday - Thursday

Guide Dogs Victoria 

Open Day  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
10am - 4pm



Located on Chandler Hwy, Kew (Melway 45B1) Free Parking off site with shuttle bus service. Meet Wags the Dog and loads of our adorable puppies for Guide Dogs Victoria's annual Open Day. With Guide Dog demonstrations, live entertainment, giveaways, show bags, competitions and loads of fun activities for the kids, Open Day is a fantastic family day out. **Entry via gold coin donation** Visit [www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au](http://www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au) for full details and parking information or phone **9854 4444** **Sorry no pets allowed**

### Bring home a brother or a sister

In July 2009, students, aged 15-18, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local school for 5 to 10 months.

Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135331 or visit our website:

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