



Principal's Reflection - Joanne Rock



The colder weather has well and truly arrived, as has June! Our students are looking wonderful in their winter uniforms and the Year 12 students are wearing their Rugby tops with pride. There has been a marked improvement in uniform standards and I thank parents who have supported us in this endeavour. A lot can be learnt about a school by the way their students present themselves in their uniform, and whilst we are certainly not perfect, we have come a long way as staff, students and parents working together to lift the overall standard of how our students present themselves. The girls' trousers have become a popular item, with a good number of girls choosing to wear them; they certainly look great and provide a little extra warmth as well.

So many wonderful learning opportunities have happened here at FCJ College since the last Newsletter:

The Community Workshops for the development of our Strategic Plan took place on 22 May. Our SRC students participated in these workshops and provided some really insightful suggestions and were most impressive. All the feedback provided from these sessions will be fed into the development of the new Strategic Plan that will hopefully be out before the end of the year and will cover 2018–2020.

Our Year 8 students started the Teen Mental Health First Aid course, which covers mental health, mental illnesses and where to go to seek help for yourself, a family member or a friend. This course is delivered over 3 sessions by our College Chaplain, Adam Toms and is funded by the Benalla Rural City Live 4 Life Project.

Students from all year levels represented the College at the Diocesan Reconciliation Mass in Bendigo as a sign of our commitment to Reconciliation. During the Mass, the following pledge was read by the Sandhurst leaders:

We accept that we as educational leaders, have an intrinsic role to play in the reconciliation process. We acknowledge that through learning and teaching about the past, the present and each other; Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students are empowered to bring about reconciliation.

We commit to being active participants in the reconciliation process.

We accept that true reconciliation cannot be achieved until the current disadvantages affecting Aboriginal people

are eliminated.

We commit to taking the necessary steps to bring about healing and change.

We value greatly the contribution that Aboriginal staff, families and communities make in our schools and the Sandhurst Diocese.

We thank them for the richness they bring to our lives, schools, churches, and our curriculum.

These were a couple of our 'Big Ticket' items, but let's not forget that amongst all of these there was some fantastic learning happening, including students from a range of year levels participated in the ICAS Science competition; sporting teams continued to go out and represent us at various levels and in various fields of endeavour like the Southern Ranges Cross Country competition; our Year 10 students did the annual trip to the Holocaust Museum in Melbourne; we had students enjoy another successful Southern Ranges Round Robin Day and our Year 9 students enjoyed a trip to Melbourne as part of the ArtsConnect9 program for rural schools. We also hosted an FCJ College Stronger Rally for students from Years 9–12. All of these wonderful learning experiences continue to enable our students to grow and pursue their gifts and talents, which in turn enriches our College community.

Is it any wonder it feels like time flies at FCJ College...
Together we grow.

Stay warm and well. God Bless!

Ms Joanne Rock
Principal





Calendar 2017

June

- 10 Youth Mass
- 12 Queen's Birthday Holiday - [Student Free Day]
- 20 Yr 9 into 10 Information Evening (current Yr 9s)
- 20 U3 Legal Studies Excursion - Melb Supreme Court
- 21 Hume Cross Country
- 21 Chess Tournament Excursion
- 23 Report Writing Day [Student Free Day]
- 28 Yr 10 into 11 Information Night (current Yr 10s)
- 28 Central Australia Trip Departs
- 30 Last Day Term 2

July

- 7 Central Australia Trip Returns
- 17 Term 3 Commences
- 18 Year 8 into 9 Information Night (current Yr 8s)
- 28 Sacred Heart College Japanese Students Arrive

August

- 3 Year 9 Dinner
- 7 Interim Reports Open
- 9 Benalla Year 10 Careers Day
- 9 OES Unit 2 Snow Trip



Extra Girl's Navy Pants

Available for Sale

at the College Office

\$45.00

Private Music Tuition @ FCJ

Sue Ciantar

MMusStud,
Dip MusT, ATMusA, Dip Biochem



Piano Teacher

Piano lessons for all ages!

Enquiries welcome

Telephone: 0418 320 472

Email mscian@benalla.net.au

Guitar Lessons

Acoustic

Nylon

Electric guitar

Lessons available
during school hours.
Many styles of music
catered for.

AMEB grades.

Ms Nada Lupo

Bachelor of Arts (music major) LaTrobe University Grad Dip
Ed (University Of Melbourne)

Enquiries: 5762 1222

or see Sue at the FCJ Front Office



follow us on facebook

admin@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

www.fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

FRONT OFFICE
Office Hours 8:15am - 4:15pm
Phone 5762 1222



NEW FCJ COLLEGE TRACK PANTS

Navy blue track pants with school logo have arrived!

If you opt to wear track pants as part of the PE uniform, it is compulsory to wear the official FCJ track pants.

Price - \$57.99
Available from the Uniform Shop

SURVEY

FCJ College acknowledges parents may wish their child to carry a mobile phone for personal safety reasons; however, the right of a student to have access to a mobile phone at college must be balanced with the responsibility to use it appropriately.

Parents are encouraged to complete a 4 minute survey regarding the use of mobile phones by students at FCJ College.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L53N5J9>



Conveyance Allowance

Students who travel a distance of more than 4.8 kilometres between the point of entry to the property/residence and the nearest bus stop, are eligible to claim a Conveyance Allowance. Please enquire at the College Office for an application form.

If your child requires government bus travel to school for 2017 and does not currently travel to school by bus, or you have moved, please contact the Bus Coordinator Malcolm Stewart c/- Benalla P-12 College on 5761 2777. For the Euroa bus please contact Minnie Askew, Finance Officer at FCJ College Benalla.



HOST FAMILIES Japanese Students

FCJ College is once again looking for generous families willing to host a Japanese student from Sacred Heart College Japan from Friday, 28 July and departing on Saturday, 12 August.

With the introduction of the new Child Safety Standards in schools, host parents will now require a Working with Children Check.

If you are interested, please contact Lisa Salvadori to obtain a Host Application Form:

lisa.salvadori@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

See flyer later in this newsletter



*F. C. J. College,
P. O. Box 123
Benalla 3671
Ph. (03) 5762 1222
Fax (03) 5762 2292*

9 June 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may be aware, FCJ College is running an immersion experience to Central Australia that is commencing on 28 June.

Due to the overwhelming number of Year 11 students attending this excursion, alternative arrangements have been made for your child's classes on the dates of 28, 29 and 30 June. Year 11 classes will not be running as normal. Holiday work will be issued for all of your child's classes prior to Wednesday, 28 June.

Students who are studying a Unit 3 subject are to continue attending classes as normal and will follow the usual sign in and sign out procedure through the front office.

If you have any questions about this arrangement, feel free to contact Year 11 Learning Leader, Mr Guy Durance.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Guy Durance
Year 11 Learning Leader

Joseph Mount
Deputy Principal

Subject Selection for 2018

It is that time of year when, although we are immersed in our teaching and learning for 2017, we also have to start planning for 2018. From a student's point of view, this means that it is time to start considering their pathways and therefore subjects for next year. In order to assist with this process and to ensure that parents and students are fully aware of the options available to them, we are running either an in-school session or an Information Night. Below I have outlined the process of subject selection at each level.

- **Year 7 Students** – Subject selection is automatic as Year 8 is a set course.
- **Year 8 Students** – In Year 9, students complete a core set of subjects and then two electives each semester. We will be running an Information Night on Tuesday 18 July at 6pm in the Learning Centre to explain these electives and how the subject selection process will work.
- **Year 9 Students** – In Year 10, students complete a core set of subjects and then two electives each semester. Year 10 students are also able to apply to study a VET or VCE subject. There will be an Information Night on Tuesday 20 June at 6pm in the Learning Centre to explain these choices and how the subject selection process will work.
- **Year 10 Students** – In Year 11, students are required to select a pathway of VCE or VCAL and then to select their subjects within this pathway, taking into consideration their future ambitions, their interests and abilities. There will be an Information Night on Wednesday 28 June at 6pm in the Learning Centre. There will also be individual pathways interviews with each student and his/her parents to assist with this process. These interviews will take place between 17 and 27 July.
- **Year 11 Students** – In Year 12, students generally continue to study the subjects that they chose in Year 11. We will have a meeting with all Year 11 students within school time at the start of Term 3 to explain the process of selecting Year 12 subjects and to explain what students should do if they would like to make a change to their current subjects.

We look forward to seeing many of you at these Information Nights. If you would like further assistance or information about this process, please feel free to contact your child's Pastoral Leader.

Mrs Kirsty Renkin
Director of Learning & Teaching

Year 12 Positive Education

This year in Positive Education, there have been many themes from goal setting, time management, stress management, organisation skills, volunteering and the benefits of it.

As a part of our programme for wellbeing, we have asked members of the Bendigo Bank to come and address our students about financial wellbeing. They have made the first of two visits to talk with our students about how to be financially healthy and some of the many traps that are easy to fall into.

The presenters from the Benalla Branch included Jenny Lee (Benalla Branch Manager), Janelle Hossack (Customer Relation Officer) and Jess Exton another Customer Relations Officer who also has responsibility for personal loans.

The content of the presentations included types of loans, the repayment realities of interest, budgeting, what happens if you struggle to re-pay a loan or default on a loan, what credit is and how it is determined. Also discussed were pay day loans and the dangers that they pose.

The second presentation is due to happen later this month when the areas not already addressed will be discussed in more detail.



Mr Jason Boyle
Year 12 Learning Leader

MAY CERTIFICATES

Last week Miss Cooke presented the May certificates to the recipients of the Marie Madeleine D'Houet Award and the Dean Davy Award. These two awards celebrate positive leadership and recognise academic excellence.



The award winners for the Marie Madeleine D'Houet award were:

- Katy Frewen - 8X
- Lily Cooke - 8Y
- Ayush Singh - 8Z

The award winners for the Dean Davy award were:

- Heidi Fullager - 8X
- Henry Sadaya - 8Y
- Claudia Welsh - 8Z

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Over the last three weeks all Year 8s have been participating in a Mental Health Program run By Adam Toms. Each class had three sessions explaining what mental health is and what it looks like. We watched films of real life stories about mental health and we discussed as a class what we would do if our friend was suffering from a mental health problem. It was a great program and everyone really enjoyed it and took away a lot of positive messages.



YEAR 8 BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

Over the last couple of weeks in Science, the Year 8s have been spending their lessons building bridges out of icy pole sticks. We all had a limit of 100 sticks, 3 meters of string and some PVA glue. After all the bridges had been built the bridges were tested by attaching a bucket with cable wires and filling them with weights.

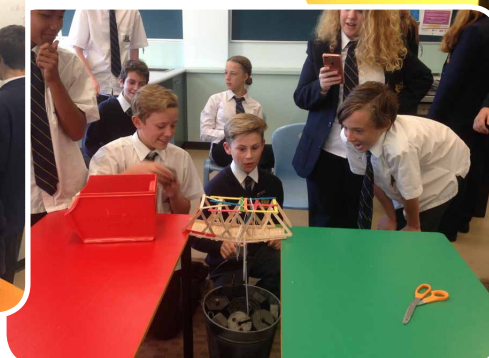
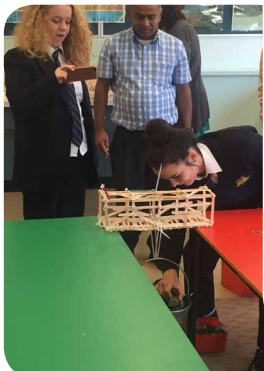
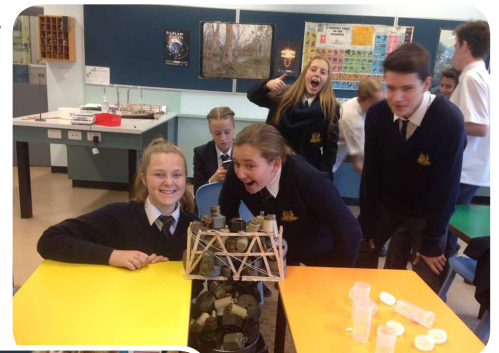
The records of the strongest bridge for each class were

8X - 85.1373 kg Bridge built by Katy Frewen, Heidi Fullager and Josh Gardner

8Y - 80kg Bridge built by Bailey Kubeil, Elisha Kubeil & Will Tilton

8Z - 51 kg Bridge built by Charli Matthews & Jenni Walker

We had lots of fun learning about tension, balance and weight.



Reconciliation Mass

Last week, our country celebrated Reconciliation Week which remembers two milestones in Australia's reconciliation journey: The 1967 referendum and the historic Mabo decision. As part of the celebrations, the North East Deanery celebrated with a Mass held at Our Lady's Church in Wangaratta. Our school was represented by a group of students who are also Fire Carriers who joined more primary and secondary school students from around the area to celebrate mass.



To begin the day, as part of the Welcome to Country, we saw and listened to the didgeridoo and clap sticks as a procession of significant Aboriginal tools and nature were brought into the church. Although filled with many young children, the Mass was still very respectful. Some primary school students lead us in music and even did a performance remembering the stolen generation.

Overall, the Mass was very moving and it was good to see both young and elderly working together for continued reconciliation.

- *Michaela Humphries (Yr 11)*

Stronger Rally

On the 31st of May, students from Year 9 through to Year 12 attended a Stronger Rally held in St Joseph's Hall. We had guest speaker Fr Rob, a priest from Bendigo, talk to us about his experiences and his development of his faith. He described his challenging youth in Malta and how easy it was for him to become involved with the wrong group of people. He filled in the gaps in his story with inclusive music and dance with some of the songs being of his own creation.

Overall, the experience helped each and every student to open their eyes to their own faith and how God can have a positive effect on our lives. We personally had a great time joining in singing and dancing alongside Fr Rob and the other students.

- *Billy Williams and Taylah Kirk (Yr 12)*



Year 10 Holocaust Museum

Visiting the Holocaust Centre and the Jewish Synagogue was an interesting experience, one of which we won't forget. The centre was the part that I enjoyed most, this is because of the stories we were told and the artefacts we saw. Throughout our time at the centre we listened to a speaker, watched a documentary, toured the museum and listened to a survivor who's name was Lucia.



Touring the museum and listening to Lucia speak were my favourite parts. This is because we were able to apply the facts we had learnt in class to real life experiences. My favourite artefact of the museum was a replica built of one of the concentration camps. It was incredibly realistic and gave a clear idea of how the camps were set up.

Listening to Lucia speak was another favourite part because we were able to hear of the horror that was her life during the Second World War. It was also fascinating to hear how Lucia survived the camps and kept to her faith.

Visiting the synagogue was also quite intriguing. Learning about Judaism and the differences and similarities between being Catholic and being Jewish were fascinating. I particularly enjoyed looking through a Torah and seeing the different mosaic windows throughout the synagogue. This trip really opened my eyes to other religions and other people's beliefs. - **Zoe Barber (Yr 10)**



2020 - A big year of Celebrations!

FCJ College will celebrate 120 years of education for Benalla and District in 2020. The Year 2020 is also of significance as it is 200 years since Marie Madeleine D'Houet founded the first house of the Faithful Companions of Jesus in Amiens, France in April 1820. So, with so much to celebrate and be thankful for, we as the FCJ Community of Benalla must commence planning for various events to celebrate these special occasions.

There will possibly be global celebrations between all FCJ Schools throughout 2020 also. However, it is important that we celebrate these milestones locally.

As Alumni Coordinator, I would like to form an organising committee to commence planning. Are you interested in joining that committee or perhaps you may know of someone who would like to participate? It would be great if we could get people of all ages to bring a richness and diversity so that all can celebrate the wonderful history and achievements of FCJ College Benalla.

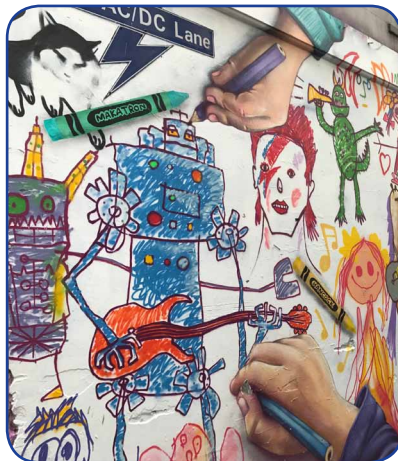
I am also presently working on collecting memorabilia from the school over time. I would like old uniforms, needlework, school books, photos and any other items that you may think would be of interest. Would also love to hear your stories- what have you done since leaving the college? Your memoirs of your school days and please start contacting your classmates or former students to inform them of the upcoming celebrations.

I would very much appreciate you contacting me by calling the College or my mobile on 0427 306 657 or by email: ltanner@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au. - **Lyn Tanner**

Hands on Learning - Pot Belly Project



ArtsConnect9 in Melbourne (Yr 9)



Woodwork / Engineering



Hannah Edgley - Yr 10



Liza Hearmon - Yr 9



Ben Davies and Daniel Morton - Yr 7



Taycia Roche and Ben Milner - Yr 7



Kate Buykx and Kagan Pearce - Yr 7

CROSS COUNTRY AMERICA FUNDRAISER

**Pirates of the Caribbean:
DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES**

7:30pm

Friday 23rd June

at BPACC

57 Samaria Rd Benalla

**Ticket holders are invited to
attend pre-movie refreshments
& silent auction from 6:45pm**

**All funds raised will go towards
the cost of sending Charles
Schultz to the USA to compete
in Cross Country America
from 20 Sept – 04 Oct 2017**



Tickets: \$20 per person

**Tickets available from Charles Schultz 0405 773 737
Kellie Schultz 0414 626 405 or at the door on the night**

招待状

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ありがとうございます

The **Sacred Heart College** girls are
coming
To **FCJ College** again this year!
18 students and 2 teachers will be
arriving from Japan on Friday 28th
July & leaving on Sat 12th August
2017

**Students will be
in need of a
Host Family**



If you are able to home-stay a student
for this short time, please contact:
lisa.salvadori@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

A payment will be offered to cover
hosting expenses.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF): Families holding a valid means-tested concession card (health care card) are eligible to apply. Schools will receive \$225 for each eligible secondary student per year between years 7-12, the funding is tied to the student and can be applied towards camps, sports and excursion levies billed to families in annual composite school fee accounts.

Application form can be obtained at the office or can be downloaded from our School Stream app or the CSEF website



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS,
DOWNLOAD THE FCJ SCHOOL STREAM APP

Your school now has a **FREE** app

Receive school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone



How to download your **FREE** app

- 1 From your mobile device go to the **App Store (iPhone/iPad)** OR **Google Play (Android)** search for **School Stream** and download the app to your phone
- 2 Make sure you agree to **push notifications**
- 3 Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search **THEN** select your school

For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download



Benalla Support Group for Children with Special Needs

158-160 Bridge St Benalla

0357627057

Coffee and NDIS Chat (and anything else disability related)

With the NDIS due to roll out in this region in October 2017, it is important that families with a person with a disability begin to understand what this may mean for them. Now is the time to begin to understand the expectations and plan the road to a successful transition. Come along and receive up to date info.

These sessions will be ongoing monthly so you have the opportunity to ask questions and together we can work out the answers.

These sessions are not only about the NDIS, but an opportunity for families to meet other families in similar positions as you may find yourself in.



"NO-one knows it better than another parent"

Where? Children's Services Centre,

1 Hanly St

Wangaratta

When:

26th April

17th May

14th June

9th Aug

6th Sept

11th Oct

8th Nov

6th Dec



Dance workshop for all abilities

Are you or someone you care for, interested in dancing??

Benalla Rural City Council in conjunction with Valley Sport and Mel'O'Drama are holding a dance workshop for people with all abilities.



The workshops will be from 6pm – 7pm on:

Monday 29/5/17 - Registration and meet and greet – at "Mel'O'drama" 53 Carrier St

Monday 5/6/17 - Night 1 – venue to be advised

Monday 12/6/17 - Queens Birthday public holiday - no dancing

Monday 19/6/17 - Night 2 - venue to be advised

Cost: \$20 for the 2 "dance" nights (\$10 each night)

For more information or to register your interest, please contact:

Natalie on 5760 2682 or Natalie.phillips@benalla.vic.gov.au

OR: Come on Monday 29/5 to find out more.

FREE EVENT

ALL ABILITIES BASKETBALL

BENALLA INDOOR BASKETBALL STADIUM

JUNE 21 JUNE 28 JULY 5 4 – 5PM

ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME AND TRY THE SPORT OF BASKETBALL!

VALLEY SPORT ARE RUNNING THREE **FREE** SESSIONS FULL OF FUN AND GAMES, HELPING LOCAL SHIRE RESIDENTS SHINE ON THE HARDWOOD.

YOU DONT NEED TO BE A PRO TO COME AND TRY!

TO REGISTER, CONTACT NATTALIE - NATTALIE@VALLEYSPO.NET.AU - (03) 5831 8456

PROUDLY RUN AND SUPPORTED BY





FREE Youth Mental Health First Aid Course

For Parents and Community Members from Benalla

Learn skills and gain confidence to assist young people experiencing mental health problems



Mental illnesses often start in adolescence or early adulthood and it is important to detect problems early to ensure the young person is properly treated and supported. The YMHFA course teaches adults how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis.

COURSE INFORMATION (Normally costs \$250 - \$350 to complete)

A comprehensive 14 hour Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) course over four sessions.

Course topics covered: Developing Mental Health problems, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders and substance abuse. Suicide and mental health crisis are also covered. Participants receive a copy of the Youth MHFA manual and are eligible to become an accredited Mental health First Aider

BOOK EARLY : 20 places only

Contact Benalla Rural City Council Community Development on 5760 2600 or email amanda.aldous@benalla.vic.gov.au

Monday May 29 - 5-9pm

Monday June 5 - 5-9pm

Monday June 19 - 5-9pm

Monday June 26 - 5-9pm

CWA Hall, Benalla

Light supper included

Participants will learn about adolescent development and the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, how and where to get help and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective



Brought to you by Youth Live4Life
Benalla Partnership Group



Benalla Rural Australians for Refugees

Presents

#RightTrack Community Conversation Project

What is #RightTrack?

The #RightTrack conversation project is about increasing awareness of Australia's current processes for people seeking asylum, through the medium of conversation.

Our aim is to provide the Indi community with a chance to have a voice on the issues that matter to them and talk about the vision they have for people who seek asylum and the need for a fair refugee determination process.

Come along – find out more about the project.

A light supper will be provided.

Date: Tuesday, 20 June, 2017

Venue: John Cooper Hall,
44 Carrier Street, Benalla

Time: 7.30pm

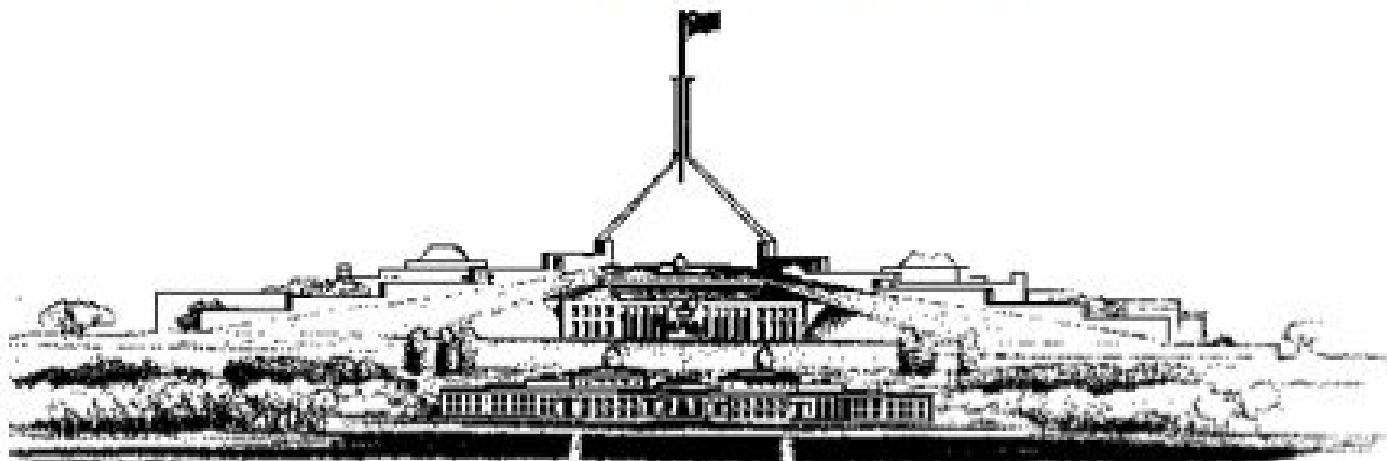
RSVP: Marg McCrohan –
danae444@gmail.com or
0401 850 130 by Friday
16 June 2017

Keynote speaker:
Joel Marlan-Tribe –
Asylum Seeker Resource
Centre



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

Federation Chamber

CONSTITUENCY STATEMENTS

Young People

SPEECH

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH

Date Wednesday, 24 May 2017
Page 108
Questioner
Speaker McGowan, Cathy, MP

Source House
Proof Yes
Responder
Question No.

Ms McGOWAN (Indi) (10:43): As I rise in the House, I want to acknowledge the student leaders of Benalla P-12 who are here with us today. I say to Freya, Emily, Zach and Masie, 'Welcome.' Often young people are described as leaders of tomorrow. But I can stand here today and say these young people are not waiting for tomorrow; they are leaders in their community today. I bring a very clear message to this House: do not ever doubt how passionate, engaged and hardworking our young people are.

Last week I travelled around my electorate seeking the views of people, particularly young people, on the government's budget and how it would affect them. The message was clear. Young people are talking about connection—connection between health, education, art, employment and infrastructure. They told me that for those who choose to stay in their own community it often comes at great expense. There are fewer opportunities for employment and fewer opportunities for continuing their education. For others it means travel to a TAFE or university in a nearby city or residing away from home for extended periods of time and being faced with the financial and social pressures of re-establishing themselves away from home, friends and community. As students, employees, carers, community leaders, volunteers and advocates for better services for their community, young people in rural communities know better than most the importance of connection. It is what they do every day. And while this places great weight on their shoulders, it also brings with it enormous compassion and understanding for others.

We saw this compassion and understanding when students from FCJ College in Benalla joined forces with Cooinda Benalla aged care, celebrating in their own lip sync battle of the Queen classic 'Don't Stop Me Now' as part of the Let's Find Our Voice choir initiative. I recommend watching it on YouTube. We saw this compassion and understanding also in Muso Magic, where health and art come together as the young people of Benalla and surrounding shires draw on their experiences to co-write and record a song on mental health—a fantastic effort.

Regional communities are built on compassion, on making sure that people do not fall through the gaps. I say to you young people, who are representing all the young people of north-east Victoria: Thanks for coming to Canberra. Thanks for being part of it. I hope this experience stays with you for the rest of your lives, and you know that always parliament is here for you. It wants to hear your voice.

I call on the government to make really concerted efforts to hear young people's voice, to engage with young people, to understand that they have compassion, that they have the best interest of their community at heart and that they have so much to add to our country and our nation.

In closing, I call on the Prime Minister and the opposition to give serious consideration to appointing a minister for youth, who will enable these voices to be heard and government voices to engage with community.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Buchholz): I thank the honourable member for her contribution and join with her in welcoming our students again.