

Term 2 Week 10 Newsletter

BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Term 2 Week 10 Newsletter



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PRINCIPAL NEWS



Semester 1 2020 - we made it!

I sit to write this after being a part of the year group gatherings where awards were presented to our students. It was wonderful to listen to the accolades the students were receiving and observe the acknowledgement from their peers for each student's efforts throughout what has been a challenging semester of learning. I have shared a very small sample of the 520 awards given out. Each award was presented for one of our School Values or our Positive Behaviours for Learning. They are heartwarming and encouraging.

Strength - In particular you continue to grow as a learner, not quitting but persevering through any challenges and always asking for help when you need it.

Integrity - In particular you have shown application, follow through and support to others enabling the accomplishment of high academic achievement.

Knowledge - In particular you work on improving your formal writing skills diligently, allowing you to express more complex ideas with eloquence.

Respect - In particular you made an effort every day to ensure that everyone felt welcome and included during online learning, and returning to school with confidence to build new relationships while strengthening old ones.

Responsibility - In particular you are striving to develop and refine your skills. You are becoming an independent learner.

Learner - In particular you are a role model for your classmates, regularly displaying how to be a learner within the classroom.

Semester 1 reports will be emailed home today Friday 3rd July. With this email, you may have also received an example of an award your child received. Have a conversation with your child about these awards and the fun afternoon we had this week.

If families do not receive their report or wish for a paper copy, please contact the front office where this can be arranged.

Term 3

We hope to see Term 3 more closely resembling our normal school experience. With easing of restrictions across the community opportunities such as excursions will again become possible.

We should also be able to have planned small gatherings with families, such as parent-teacher interviews and other meetings onsite with physical distancing and hygiene measures in place. However, where possible parents and carers should still routinely avoid entering school grounds and ensure they practice physical distancing around adults at schools.

Carpark

This semester we have experienced growing concern over the safety of the school car parks at peak drop-off and pick-up times. The car park gets extremely congested with cars parked in no standing areas making it difficult for ease of travel through the car park, especially for the school buses.

Please be aware that both school car parks are designated 'park in bays only' areas. We will be repainting the car park markings over the break and adding additional signs. Parents, please discuss with your child a suitable place for drop off or pick up outside of the car parks. We thank you for your support with making these improvements.

We will continue to look at ways to improve safety in the school car parks and are working alongside Transport Canberra regarding our school bus service. More information on this will come throughout next semester.

Thank you

I would like to thank all our families for their support, feedback and assistance over the semester. The connection between home and school has never been more important and we can all be proud of our efforts and the resilience our young people have shown throughout the semester.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication of the Belconnen High School staff who have prioritised well being and connectedness for our community and worked tirelessly to provide the best possible learning experience for our students.

I wish all our students and their families a relaxing and safe break.

Rebecca Pearce



1 - ACTION BUSES

School timetable changes commencing Term 3 2020

Transport Canberra

From Saturday 18 July 2020, Transport Canberra will be updating timetables for bus services.

As a new timetable is being introduced there will be minor changes for all students travelling to and from school on public transport across Canberra from the first day of Term 3, 2020 (Monday 20 July 2020). In most cases, this will mean that students will catch the same service from the same stop, but the times that services arrive and leave may change.

We know school students need to travel during our peak travel times to get to and from school on time. These changes will help make public transport in Canberra easier to use and provide more services, giving people more opportunity to spread out their travel as we recover from COVID-19.

All schools, parents and students can find out more about the specific changes by:

- checking the [information packs for each school](#);
- checking [timetables](#) for each route (including school specials); and
- calling 13 17 10.

HUMANITIES NEWS



“When am I ever going to need to know this?”

This is a question that every teacher and parent hears regularly.

How do you answer this question? Some people talk about their own life and career and link back to something they half remember being taught 20 years ago. Others talk about winning trivia competitions with a key fact about Henry VIII. Others talk about the intrinsic value of learning stuff. Then of course you have a purely work-driven answer.

But all of these suffer from one critical flaw: young people haven't been old yet. But don't worry. The Humanities Faculty is here to save the day!

In spite of the huge disruptions of this semester, we've been able to teach students about how to understand the news, about 'flattening the curve', the power of politicians to shape messages, the role of the media (as well as ways to interpret the media), the value of just escaping into a book when the whole world is holding its breath. Whether over a Google Hangout or face-to-face, our students listened to, talked, read and wrote about ideas in literature, geography, history, law and life. And maybe without even noticing, they made connections between those ideas and their own perception of the world they live in. And parents, if you've been really lucky, they've shared their thoughts with you over a meal.

Our students are resilient, reflective, intellectual scholars and now they've got something really special: experience. When we try to answer the question "when am I ever going to need to know this?" we can now answer in a way that helps them see the value of knowing things and knowing how to know things. It's how so many of our students not only kept their studies going during isolation, but also started their own independent learning and development. How else could they do this without knowledge and skills?

Next semester will be 'normal' and the Humanities team just cannot wait to continue engaging students in the learning and culture of BHS. We look forward to helping students find their value and values in what they learn.

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY



Over the past weeks Mrs Hoy has been taking the classes as I broke my leg and was on sick leave. The classes have completed several enjoyable tasks including sampling honey and honeycomb and making string.

Wiradjuri words

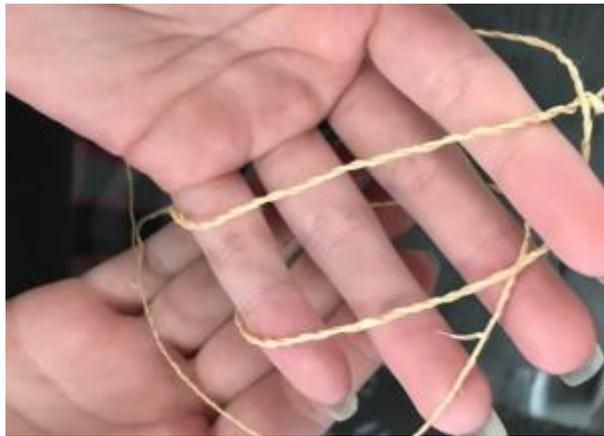
Honey – ngurru

Honeycomb – darga, ngurrung, garang, marin

Wax or gum – dani

Honey people (Narromine) – ngarru-mayiny

Here you can watch the Wiradjuri clip of the skill of making string with raffia <https://vimeo.com/81684034>. Below are several examples from the classes. Mrs Hoy said the students showed their fine skills and enjoyed the tasting of the honeycomb.



Although it has been a difficult semester and many things have happened, I would like to thank the students in Connecting to Country and Mrs Hoy for doing an excellent job in teaching the Connecting to Country classes.

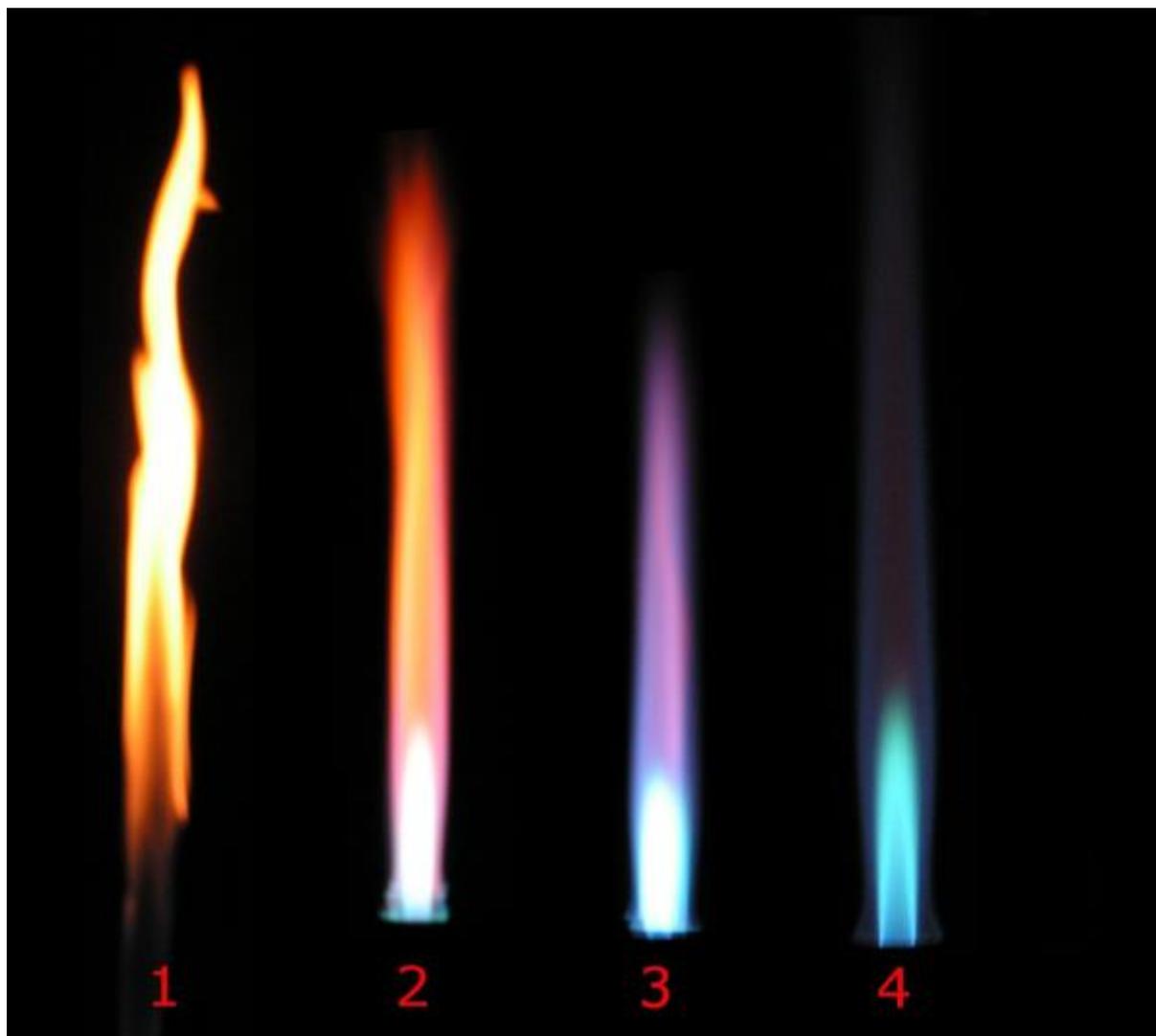
Anne O'Neill



Reconciliation Week CARE Projects

Facilitated by the Year 10 Leadership class

Embed://<iframe src="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQ9S6Vvo4Noda3vJOiibjDKE_hvekVkmM55F5YIiotNM-1Qf0Z2JrZNs_n0fj5tyT9fiokcYhL8r0lkb/embed?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000" frameborder="0" width="960" height="569" allowfullscreen="true" mozallowfullscreen="true" webkitallowfullscreen="true"></iframe>

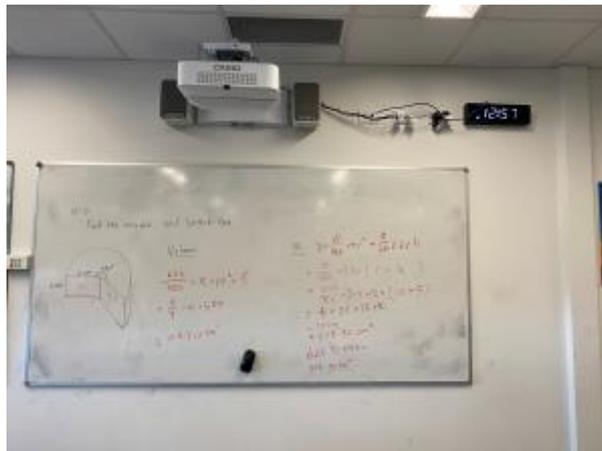


Maths

“Ms Wang has provided a very challenging maths problem she presented to her year 9 PEP class recently. In the first picture she describes the question and provides the ANSWER at the bottom in red. Many students are confused about why a teacher would present the answer alongside the question. This is because the most important part of a question isn't always answer! The most important part of many questions is the work you do to understand the problem and the work you show as you work through the steps to come to the answer. By providing the answer it is possible for a student to check their own work after they work through the problem.



In the second photo we see the steps that are used to come to the answer. This is the important part of the answer. Teachers ask students to show their work. Student often question why teachers care about seeing the steps of working out problems, especially if the student feels the questions are easy. Ms Wang encourages every student to show their work and remember that the process is an important step in the learning process.”



Science

“One presentation is from Chaisongjee T for year 7 and the other is Luke S from year 8. These are excellent examples of the multimedia presentations that students have prepared for this years virtual 2020 Iso Science Fair.

Mr Heeney also wants to acknowledge the high quality science fair presentations delivered by Lucie B, Niti D, Laura F, Lola F and Jessie J of his year 7 classes and Isla W, Jasmine H and Parker P from Year 8.

Great work to all students who continued their education at home and attempted the 2020 ISO Science Fair projects.”

ARTS & TECHNOLOGY FACULTY NEWS



Arts/Tech Department

Design and Technology

Students have undertaken a range of projects this semester in Design and Technology and have produced some outstanding work, despite the interruptions. Many year 9/10 students completed the chess board project (with 3D modeled chess pieces), learning about fine timber joinery and veneering, while others worked on their own individual projects.

Meanwhile, the year 7/8 students developed their 3D modeling skills while studying from home and produced some very creative and detailed space ships - inspired by found objects.







Music:

Music students have been very busy practising and perfecting either solo or group performances across a variety of instruments. Songs vary from the Back To The Future theme song to Lonely Boy to 7 Nation Army to Fortunate Son and Hotel Yorba to list a few. To celebrate the end of semester we are excited to have groups from 9/10 Contemporary Music and Rock Band perform this Friday in the BLC. Come along to cheer them on!





PRODUCTION CONTINUES!

Many students who signed up to our production departments met in the Hall last Thursday. Production rehearsals will restart Term 3 and we will be performing mid 2021. All actors, singers, musicians, assistant directors and choreographers are expected to begin rehearsals Wednesday 3pm-4.30pm, Week 1 of Term 3.

The hall was buzzing!
Let the time travel begin!

NOT Bill & Ted's
EXCELLENT
adventure

PE FACULTY NEWS



Physical Education

It has been a positive end to the semester with students returning to school and participating positively during PE lessons. All students have transitioned back successfully into practical lessons and staff have been focusing on wellbeing and engagement during all units of work.

Students have completed the following units this Term:

Year 7 – Modified Games with a focus on Kicking.

Year 8 – Netball/Basketball and Hockey.

Year 9 – Basketball and Volleyball Sport Education competitions.

Year 10 – Racquet, Leisure and Team Sports.

Next Semester Update

PE Uniform:

After the break PE lessons will resume back to normal and we would appreciate family support with ensuring students are getting changed for PE and bringing their own drink bottle.

New Electives:

Next semester we will be introducing 2 new electives within the PE department. Mr Bradbury will be teaching the Year 9/10 Sports Leadership class with a focus on current sporting issues, what makes a successful leader and a Sports Coaching qualification. Psychology will be taught by Miss Mclellan giving the students an insight into the basics of human mind and behaviour.

School Sport:

We are excited to hear that school sport will begin to resume in Semester 2 in a modified format. Students will be informed during PCG and the daily announcements about returning competitions and how to get involved. Mr Gyzywacz is our Sports Co-ordinator and will keep students up to date!

LEARNING SUPPORT NEWS



In Life Skills we have been taking the students down to the art room for some fine motor skills lessons. We have been creating tonal masterpieces by using different types of food. Our first artwork was painted using beetroot, blackberry and raspberry juices. The second art work was painted using hot chocolate, coffee and tea. Thank you to Mrs Bridges for her art instruction and demonstrations.







SRC & LEADERSHIP NEWS

To the students and staff of Belconnen High School



Thank you for your generous donation to the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade to provide support to those that lost their homes in the Clear Range Fire, 1 February 2020

Images captured in April during presentations of the hamper gifts to

Mick and Karen Gallagher Tony Weston and Nina Clarke Stephen Littlehales and Annika Safe Steve and Diane Bowen

Photos by Carolyn Burton and Gill Robinson

Landholders receive their hampers from Colinton Fire Brigade Captain Graham Povey



2 - Karen and Mick Gallagher



3 - Tony Weston and Nina Clarke



4 - Annika Safe, Stephen Littlehales and Children



5 - Steve Bowen collects a hamper for himself and his wife, Diane



6 - A sample of hamper contents



7 - Tony and Nina rebuild



8 - What fire can do to a home



9 - ... and the trees

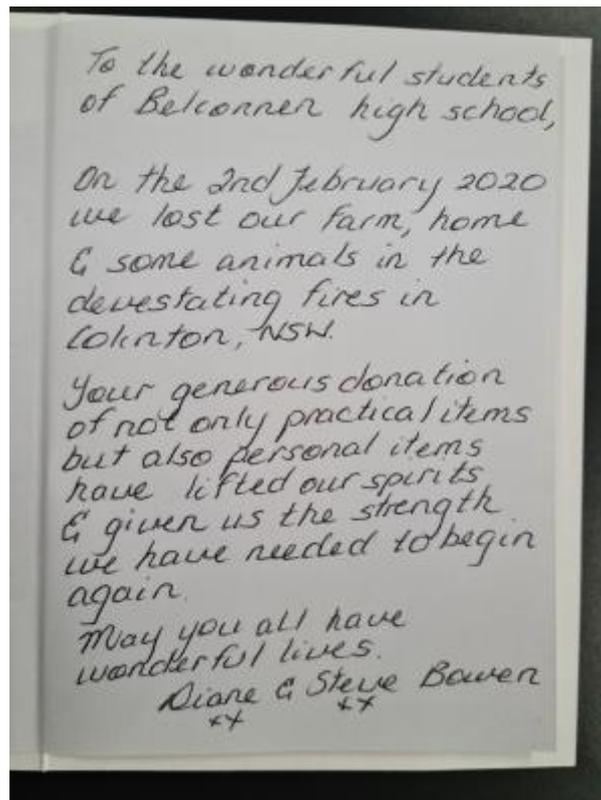


10 - Hot enough to melt aluminium



11 - The remains of a truck





LEADERSHIP NEWS

The Year 10 Leadership class have been participating in "Ikin's mini Olympics". Students had to create their own flags, national anthems and national dress. They have competed in the paper plane archery, paper plate discus, paper ball shot put, elastic band fling, straw javelin, shoe hammer throw, bean bag long jump and the finale of the cotton ball relay. We performed a medal ceremony and I am pleased to announce that SAOP won Gold, District 41 silver and Cintra Bronze. Congratulations to all for a friendly and inclusive games.







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Hi Natalie

I just wanted to update you and the leadership class on how we are sharing your lovely gifts.

Our residents get to admire our "Kindness Wall" while enjoying their meals, we have decorated the wall beside the dining room with your lovely artwork and thoughtful cards for them to enjoy.

We have been doing twice weekly gift basket prizes and drawing a residents name as a winner, they receive a succulent and some other goodies from your gifts. We plan for each resident to be a winner.

Our staff are enjoying the chocolates on a regular basis and I have decorated the nurses station with some thank you cards.

Again, thank you for the effort that was put in.

Tina Raymond | Lifestyle Supervisor

Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution







Villaggio residents and staff would like to thank Belconnen High School students for their wonderful kindness project that has made a huge difference to our lives. Each student and teacher has gone above and beyond. Thank you,

From all residents and staff at Villaggio Sant Antonio.

Vikki Marden

BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMONS NEWS



As we wrap up Semester 1, the inevitable reminder about overdue library books and textbooks is timely. All students were emailed a listing of overdue titles on Friday, 24th June. Please remind them to check their school email accounts and return books promptly. They can be left in the blue box on the library desk if it is unattended

I look forward to facilitating more activities next semester as we return to 'normal' and we will be trialling a "Digital Detox" in one or two break times to encourage students to turn off their devices, relax and socialise.

Tina Williams

E-Learning Coordinator.

FINANCE



CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

Due to unprecedented times with Covid 19, Belconnen High School will only be accepting contactless payments until further notice. We welcome your payments via QuickWeb which can be located on the Payments tab on our [Webpage](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this process for future payments.

FAMILY TRANSACTION STATEMENTS

Due to COVID-19 family transactions statements will be sent to families in Semester 2.

FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS



It is important that the school maintains an accurate and up to date record of family/carer email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers for all student. Please let us know if there are changes to your contact details by sending an email to info_BLCH@ed.act.edu.au or phone the front office on 6142 1690. We are always grateful to receive this information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Student accident/incidents



Ambulance transport for students at school This information is from the ACT Department of Education policy on Student accidents/incidents:

6. AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

6.1. The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during approved school activities within the ACT. Free ambulance cover does not apply to students who attend Jervis Bay School.

7. STUDENT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT

7.1 Schools collect information about injuries and incidents, which occur at school or on school-organised activities, on behalf of the Education and Training Directorate. Some of the information may be personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report together with any accompanying witness statements or the Notification of a Critical Incident.

COVID-19 NEWS



I'm pleased to let you know there will be a further easing of restrictions on our school activities and parent/carer engagement in line with the broader easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the ACT.

Today the ACT Education Directorate released a 'road map' based on the ACT Government's COVID-19 recovery plan. This road map is based on health advice and is attached along with a letter from the Chief Health Officer.

In term 3 we plan to welcome back our families for events such as parent teacher interviews and small assemblies with physical distancing and hygiene measures in place.

However, where possible parents and carers should still routinely avoid entering school grounds and ensure they practice physical distancing around adults at schools.

I encourage you to review the road map and letter and look out for future school newsletters and communication about how we will be implementing the road map in our school.

COVID-19 hotspots to avoid during the school holidays

Are you planning on travelling out of the ACT these school holidays? ACT Health has advised all ACT residents **not to travel to suburbs in Melbourne that have been identified as COVID-19 “hotspots”** (areas with increased risk of community transmission). In addition, ACT Health has advised ACT residents to **reconsider any travel to the greater Melbourne metropolitan area**. This advice has been issued to avoid the risk of bringing COVID-19 into the ACT.

Ten hotspot postcodes in Melbourne, where community transmission is occurring, have been identified by the Victorian Government. Suburbs in these postcodes are under stay at home public health orders until 29 July 2020.

The hotspots suburbs are:

3012 – Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray

3021 – Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans

3032 - Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore

3038 - Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens

3042 - Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie

3046 - Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park

3047 - Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana

3055 - Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West

3060 – Fawkner

3064 - Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo

P&C NEWS



News from the Uniform Shop

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Uniform Shop this year. The Uniform Shop is the P&C's primary fund-raising venture, and it provides a much needed resource to families through secondhand uniforms at heavily reduced prices. We are always happy to accept donated uniforms in good, clean condition. Bagged donations can be left with the front office.

Last week the Uniform Shop reopened its doors "remotely". At this stage we can only service customers who have placed requests on our wish lists.

Please only visit the Uniform Shop (via the Front Office) if you have been contacted by a volunteer.

If you would like to request a secondhand item you can email us at

Uniform.Shop.BHS@gmail.com including the following details:

- Your name
- Preferred contact number (notifications are sent via sms)
- Item
- Size (sizes are mostly 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, S, M, L, XL, 2XL)
- Quantity

Thank you to those who have already emailed requests. A volunteer will contact you when your requested item becomes available.

Introducing Schools online ordering

We welcome you to chat to our friendly Uniform Shop volunteers about this exciting change.

CANTEEN NEWS



Download the app and register with [FlexiSchools](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS



Bit Bent Capital Region Community Services

A weekly get together for anyone aged 12 - 25

Bit Bent is an all-inclusive social support group for gender and sexually diverse young people, which has been running in Canberra for over ten years. The group is facilitated by trained youth workers from the LGBTQ+ community. This is an informal group where we have a bite to eat, talk about what we have been up to, support one another and share information about local events and services. The group provides a great opportunity to meet new friends and have fun hanging out in a safe and supportive environment.

There are two Bit Bent groups operating weekly* in Canberra

Mondays (Belconnen Group)
 5pm-6:30pm: School Aged
 7pm-7:30pm: Out of School Aged
 Belconnen Youth Centre
 Corner of Chandler St & Swanson Cr, Belconnen

Thursdays (Woden Group)
 5:00pm to 6:30pm
 Woden Youth Centre
 Callum Street, Phillip

*During ACT public school terms

To connect with Bit Bent Belconnen, visit the Belconnen Youth Centre on the corner of Chandler St and Swanson Court, phone 6264 0200, email bitbent@crs.com.au, or search: **Bit Bent** on Facebook and Instagram.

Capital Region Community Services
 02 6264 0200 | contact@crs.com.au | www.crs.com.au | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BitBentACTCentre) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/BitBentACTCentre)

“A Bit Bent is a local support group for LGBTQI+ students in our area. Students who identify in this group between the ages of 12 and 25 years old are welcome.”



JOIN SCOUTS!

Scouts is a mix of fun, adventure and personal challenge that brings together like-minded young people from all walks of life. When you're dealing with your toughest years in school and making decisions about your future, Scouts offers vital breathing space. You can focus on friendship and personal growth, while picking up valuable life skills along the way.

As a Scout, you may find yourself exploring wilderness Australia, camping above the snowline or diving on coral reefs. You could be abseiling into a limestone cave or climbing a sheer rock face. Perhaps you'll learn white water kayaking or ride your mountain bike on an expedition across real mountains.

Whatever your challenge, there will be trained and highly experienced adults to guide you through the experience, to teach you the necessary skills and safety techniques. The programs are designed to target each young person's own special interests, encouraging them to enjoy their favourite hobbies using meaningful badges and awards.

There are many benefits to scouting:

Resilience - In 2018 the Resilient Youth Australia survey of our youth members highlighted some of the benefits of Scouting.

Mental health - The 2016 UK Childhood Study found that former Scouts are 18% less likely to suffer mood or anxiety disorders than non-Scouts, even decades later, as adults.

Leadership - Unlike school or sport, in Scouting every young person gets a chance at developing their skills in leadership.

Academic outcomes - Scouting is linked with better school results, especially at upper secondary levels. The Queen's Scout Award increases your ATAR by 3 points (Bonus points).

Contact your local scout group for more information:

Southwell Scout Group, Page

Andrea Butler

0410 257 377

Groupleader.Southwell@scoutsact.com.au



World Environment Day Online Auction

On June 5th the [Conservation Council ACT Region](#) celebrated [World Environment Day](#) by launching an online fundraising auction, which will continue until 9:30 pm on Sunday the 26th of July. The [World Environment Day Online Auction](#) features more than 90 donated items including [art pieces by local school-striker Alice Harcourt](#), a [Red Earth home battery system](#) and an [iStore energy efficient hot water system](#). Great value educational items include online or in-person seminars from world leading scientists and academics, [Professor Will Steffen](#) and [Dr Alison Green](#), and an amazing singing workshop from the incredible [Mal Webb](#).

The majority of these Eco-friendly auctioned items can be delivered around Australia, New Zealand and the world which means you don't need to be Canberra-based to receive them. If you buy an item that has been donated by our diverse range of environmentally-minded sponsors, you will be

doing the planet a favour. With the heartwarming support from national and local businesses and individuals, the Conservation Council is able to raise important funds to continue their work to shape a sustainable future for the ACT and region.

More information is available on the [Conservation Council website](#) or by going straight to the [World Environment Day Online Auction Allbids web page](#).



Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



Contact
your local Saver Plus Coordinator
Phone
1 800 810 335
Email
Caroline2@thesmithfamily.com.au
Online
saverplus.org.au
Find us on Facebook 

*This is based on your current eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment. Saver Plus is a not-for-profit organisation and is not affiliated with any government department. The Department of Social Services is not responsible for the content of this page. For more information, please contact your local Saver Plus Coordinator.