



The Marian

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<https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>

2022 College Theme

'Act with Courage, be strong in your faith'



St Mary's College Seymour is a Child Safe School. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Newsletter No.5

Term 1

1 April 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians



Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Tuesday evening Year 3 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament of healing is about forgiveness and reconciliation. God is a merciful God and showing mercy is a strength of character not a weakness. Our world could do with forgiveness and mercy at the present time. Tuesday evening was a special evening. Father Eugene welcomed the children and families to the sacramental celebration. I have no doubt that God's grace was present on Tuesday evening. One of the prayers read during the liturgy was, *"God of gentleness, you ask us to bring peace to our family and to the world. Sometimes we spread anger and trouble and have held grudges, and refused to drive one another, or forgive ourselves."* Good manners are free and showing respect costs nothing.

Parenting children is the most important responsibility that any adult can have. Steven Biddulph the noted author on bringing up kids suggests that formation and growth are found in the importance of *"Soft Love and Tough Love."* There may be no script for parenting, says Biddulph but every home requires soft love and tough love, otherwise children (teenagers included) develop an *I want it I get it mentality and default to blaming others*. Biddulph believes in a few truths for a child's formation:



- *Not giving in to keep the peace.*
- *Accepting there are times when a teenager needs to be given a reality check.*
- *Valuing/making family time.*
- *Staying strong to your decisions.*
- *Have boundaries, expectations and nurture resilience.*
- *Love that is unconditional, inappropriate behaviours that are not.*

Teachers can have the unenviable job of informing a parent of a student's imperfections. Our society suggests that every child must always be happy and never get upset. Children learn as much from failure as they do from success. They learn even more when a parent backs their teacher. Thank you if you have supported the College if ever an issue has had to be discussed in relation to behaviours. Tough love sets children up for successful lives.

F-12 Pathway Committee

Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) is currently reviewing the College's application to return to Year 12. There will be a decision soon from MACS in regard to the College's comprehensive submission.

Mrs Rowland

Mrs Rowland has resigned her teaching position at St Mary's to take up a position closer to home. Kymberleigh began at St Mary's in 2017 and during her time at St Mary's she has been the Secondary Curriculum and Literacy Leaders. Kymberleigh always wants the best for her students both academically and pastorally and that will be felt in the hearts and minds of the children in her care. Congratulations to Kymberleigh on her new appointment and her service to St Mary's.

Art Technology Assistant

An Arts Technology Assistant position will be advertised through Facebook. The successful applicant will support the vision and values of the College community and the Mercy ethos. He/she will work collaboratively with teachers in the practical preparation of and participation in class activities. They will work in partnership and under the guidance of teachers to provide effective learning outcomes for students.

Teacher Shortage

Education across Australia is experiencing the greatest teacher shortage in decades. Three MACS schools have already informed parents that on a day a week, a Year level will work from home due to lack of staff. The shortage is due to Covid and teachers leaving the profession and moving to other careers. This is a serious issue in both city and rural education.

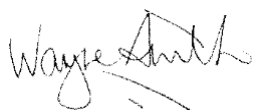
Blessings

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Parker family on the passing of Ben. We continue to pray for Melinda, James, Harrison and their extended families. Our students have been gently caring for James and Harrison and being present for them. Their maturity in this support has been outstanding.

Eternal rest grant unto Ben, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

There will be an Easter Letter emailed home to all families on Friday 8th April and possibly with a Covid Update to be begin Term Two. At the present time our Covid cases and Close Contacts numbers are low. Thank you for keeping up with the Rapid Testing.

Take care and go gently.



Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan) GradDipREd (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt)
MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)

Deputy Principal Operations



College parents and guardians are invited to complete the 2022 Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Survey (ECSI) online. The survey, which will also be completed by College staff and students, provides excellent data for future planning in the area of Catholic Identity, including but not limited to our Religious Education program, College prayer and liturgy, and other College events and programs.

Your participation in the survey will take approximately 35 minutes and all of your responses will be kept private. The survey begins with questions about personal characteristics and then moves forward in several parts. Please finish one part before going on to the next one. You can look at your results by going to the main questionnaire page and you can return at anytime to a question and change your answer. If you wish to take a break and come back later to finish the survey, you will need to save your personalised User-ID and Password (this will be shown on the screen as you enter the survey).

General instructions for survey completion for parents

1. Go to www.ecsi.site/au/user/
2. Enter the password: Ghj654 and click login
3. Click the **New User** Button
4. Enter the NDC survey access code: x7z2C7
5. Commence the Identity profile section
6. Commence the first of five sections

Keep these best practices in mind:

- ✓ **Answer spontaneously and don't overanalyse.** Your input is more valuable if you respond with the first thought that comes to mind. Plus, you'll proceed faster.
- ✓ **Choose the response that honestly matches your opinion.** Don't hesitate to select "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" if that's in fact how you feel.
- ✓ **Respond as best you can to each question as it is worded.** You may feel that some questions don't fully apply to your school environment. That's OK; just respond as best you can.

It's also helpful to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Many questions ask you for two perspectives:**
 - "My son/daughter's school" as you actually see things today
 - "My ideal school" as you would like to see things in the best future scenario
- ✓ **Some questions might seem repetitive; but they're actually not.** There's a scientific purpose behind the ways in which the questions are formulated. Every question counts.
- ✓ **Trust that the survey as a whole will accurately capture your personal point of view.** Even if you struggle to respond to some individual questions, it's important to complete the entire survey.

The College is required to reach a minimum sample size of responses.

Thank you for your important contribution and taking the time to participate.

Attendance

Every Day Counts.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Gaining the maximum benefit from your child's educational experience provides them with opportunities as a young adult. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in the formative years of schooling will often continue to miss classes in the later years. Data reveals that in Australia students attend, on average 92% of ‘available school days’ (ACARA 2018). An attendance rate of 92% seems reasonable however, when you examine this data more closely it reveals some reason for concern. A student with a rate of attendance of 92% misses approximately 3 weeks of school per year. If this rate of attendance continues throughout the child’s schooling, by the end of year 12 the child will have missed the equivalent of an entire year of schooling.

Evidence has identified a relationship between attendance and achievement. The correlation between absence and achievement is consistently negative and declines in achievement are evident with any level of absence. Missing school not only has a significant impact on students academically but also socially. It can affect their results and, just as importantly, it can affect a child’s relationship with other students, and lead to social isolation.

The College Wellbeing team regularly monitors individual student attendance rates and are here to work in partnership with parents and carers who may be experiencing concerns with their child’s attendance.

Tips for Parents

- Act early and seek help from the College if you are concerned about your child’s attendance and wellbeing.
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with the College about all absences is beneficial
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind
- Remember that every day counts

Around the Grounds (of St Mary’s College) Lunchtime Activities



Wheelie Wednesday

During lunchtime on Wednesday the 23rd March, Year 6 students with bikes, scooters, skateboards and roller skates in tow weaved their way around the College. The track took students down the bus stop laneway, through the Multipurpose Hall carpark, past the oval, back through Area E garden, returning them to the starting line. In five minutes, the Year 6 students completed 93 laps! Next week our Year 5 students will be involved in Wheelie Wednesday and the challenge has been set. Maybe Year 5 will clock up 100 laps in five minutes. Thank you to Mr Harding and the Year 10 leaders who monitored student safety throughout the activity. It was great fun!

Netball Clinics

Year 10 leaders, Emily Homewood and Charlotte Cotter have been conducting netball clinics on Thursdays at lunchtimes for students in Years 4-6. Students have been divided in two teams, each team is involved in drills to learn the fundamental skills of netball and they finish each session with a game. The clinics have been very popular with up to 30 students in attendance. Thank you to Mrs Wood who has been supervising the students in the Multipurpose Hall.

Art Classes

At lunchtime on Wednesdays Year 10 leaders, Zara Maus, Ruihan Qiao and Tobias Rayner have been running Art lessons for both primary and secondary students. This term students have been engaged in rock painting. Zara expressed that the sessions are designed to be “a moment when students do not need to think intensely and can express themselves creatively”. In Term 2 students will have the opportunity to be involved in cotton swab painting, exploring different textures and designs. Thank you to Ms Yardley for her support of this activity.

Last Day of Term

Term 1 wraps up on Friday 8th April, students will finish at **2.30pm**.

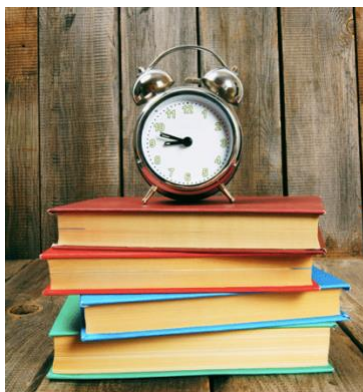
Enjoy the final week of term, rest and recuperate over the Easter holidays.

We return on Tuesday the 26th of April to start Term 2.

Photo Catch-up Day

Arthur Read Photography will return to St Mary’s on Thursday 7th of April at 1pm to take portrait photos of any students who were absent on College photo day in February.

If your child missed out on individual photos, please email me at genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au prior to the 7th of April so that a list of students can be prepared for the photographers. Students who wish to have their photo taken are required to wear full summer uniform (no PE uniform allowed).



Does being late to school matter?

I'm sure many of us have been in a situation where we have 'only been a few minutes late' and if this is a rare occurrence then it probably doesn't matter that much. However, it becomes a significant problem when it occurs regularly. Often a couple of minutes late then becomes 10 minutes late and the problem can quickly get out of hand. We know that, a leading cause of school refusal is the inability to establish set routines and be consistently punctual.

There are many advantages to being punctual

Enjoy More Time to Prepare

Students arriving to school with time to spare have the luxury of settling in, preparing their class materials and focusing their minds on the lessons to come. They have all the time they need to literally and figuratively wake up. Students showing up to class in the middle of a lesson miss out on this natural transition period and may lose even more of the lesson as they scurry to settle into an academic focus. This ultimately contributes to poorer learning outcomes.

Never Miss Important Information

Arriving to school after classes have started, can cause students to miss more than just the introduction to a new lesson. Teachers often share important information: reminders of upcoming events and other school-related specifics. Students who show up late may miss out on these details and as a result, be unprepared for some future class event.

Develop Positive Lifelong Habits

Arriving late to school on a consistent basis can have longer-term academic effects. If showing up late to school becomes a habit, students may develop the notion that tardiness is acceptable behaviour. This belief can negatively impact their future work ethic and employment opportunities. Alternatively, showing up on time to school, can help students develop the habit of being punctual with important commitments.

Being just a bit late does matter

When your child misses just....	That equals.....	Which is.....	From Kinder to Year 12 that is.....
10 minutes	50 minutes of learning	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes	1 hr and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour per day	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 month of learning	Nearly 1 ½ years of school
1 hour each day	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year	Over 2 months of learning	Nearly 2 ½ years of school

What can we do about this?

Parents and guardians play an important role in ensuring that students attend school on time, every day.

Here are a few suggestions if your child is starting to develop a pattern of lateness to school.

- Ensure that they have a timetable displayed at home so they can prepare for the next day
- Make sure their school bags are packed before going to bed
- Be vigilant regarding your child's sleeping patterns – are they going to bed too late?
- Ensure that mobile devices are not used within an hour of going to bed
- Contact the school immediately if you identify a concerning pattern and we will be able to assist

Mrs Allison Moore

allison.moore@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission



Sacrament of Reconciliation



Congratulations to our Year 3 Catholic students who received their First Reconciliation on Tuesday night. It was a beautiful faith filled ceremony, led by our Parish Priest Father Ashkar. Thank you to all the parents, family members, and school staff who attended. Thank you to Year 3 classroom teachers Miss Jade Osborne and Mrs Catherine Evans for preparing and supporting the students in their preparation for the Sacrament and organising the ceremony; it was a beautiful celebration!



CARITAS

****Could any Caritas home boxes please be returned during the last week of term. Thank you.**

Thank you for your generosity over the Lenten period.

So far, our College has raised a total of \$1,391.85

Colour Hair Day – \$278.05

Sausage Sizzle (Flood relief) – \$709.30

Zooper Doopers – \$404.50

*****Bring on Meat Pie Monday!**

Harmony Week

After discussing and praying about Harmony Week, students were encouraged to write a pledge - what I will do to live in harmony each and every day? See some of their responses below.

Holy Week

This year Holy week is right in the middle of the school holidays. Over the last couple of weeks all classes have created a 'station' of the cross, to be placed in an area of the school. As part of a Holy Week Liturgy, classes will move silently around the school praying at each of these stations. Thank you to the teachers who have helped their classes reflect on 'their station' and create a beautiful prayer space.

Photos of each station will be in the first Marian next term!

The link below is a great 3-minute recap of Holy Week, that you may like to use with your children as Holy Week approaches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdrPhxqRP9I&t=2s>



#belonging #peace #harmony #friendship #acceptance #love #diversity

I pledge ...

Write a 'living in harmony' pledge. In your pledge describe what you will try to do to live in harmony each and every day.

- | | |
|---|--|
| * <u>not</u> to take my anger out on other people 2A | * <u>to</u> try to be strong in my faith 3A |
| * <u>to</u> be kind to everyone 3B | * <u>to</u> help people in need 3B |
| * <u>not</u> be made when I get out in <u>downball</u> 6B | * <u>to</u> be kind and help others if they are hurt 3B |
| * <u>to</u> help bullies be kind 1A | * <u>to</u> be respectful of others 8B |
| * <u>to</u> help Mum without her asking more than once 3A | * <u>to</u> be kind to others, no matter what! 8A |
| * <u>to</u> help others 3B | * <u>to</u> spread positive words and actions everywhere I go 4B |
| * <u>to</u> try being more caring 2B | * <u>to</u> include others 8C |
| * <u>to</u> be kind to others 1A | * <u>to</u> help people who don't understand. 5B |
| * <u>to</u> be respectful and listen 6A | * <u>to</u> be kind and give flowers to people 6A |
| * <u>to</u> work together with my sister and not fight 5B | * <u>to</u> try to keep our school clean and live in harmony 7A |

Mrs Rochelle Gough

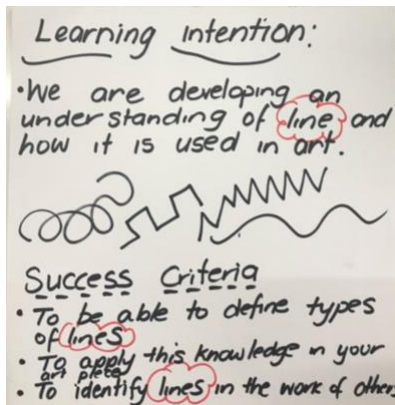
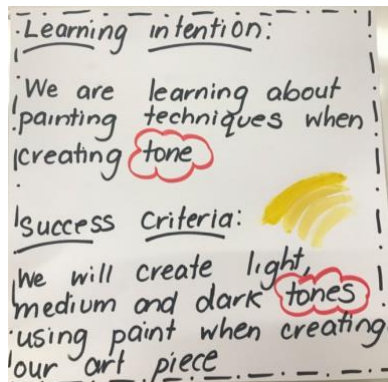
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Learning and Teaching



Celebrating our learning and teaching

A key learning focus across our College for Term One has been the active implementation and use of learning intentions and success criteria in all lessons. These key lesson elements allow our students to know what is being learned and to understand how they have been successful in achieving that learning. The pictures below are a great example of how our art department has built our students' confidence and expertise in demonstrating their learning and skills.



Mrs Julia Wood

julia.wood@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

3-6 Coordinator



As the end of the term draws near, we slow down and reflect on what has been a fantastic chance to have an uninterrupted term. Our Year 3 students participated in Reconciliation on Tuesday night which was a perfect celebration to conclude weeks of preparation.



Holy Week

Our holy week preparations continue with our year 6 students creating the stations of the cross around the trees in our quadrangle. Again, with the help of our invaluable Ms Ally.

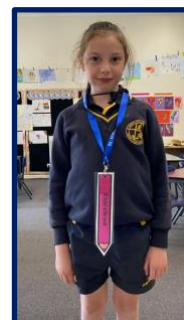
Science

Year 3 love Science! Thanks to Mrs Williams, Year 3-6 have the opportunity to work in the Science room every fortnight. This week there was slime to be made – another fabulous experience for our students.

Art Award Winners

Each week, Ms Ally recognises a child in her art classes who has worked very well and tried their hardest.

This week's award winners were Laila (3A) and Charlotte Gibson (3B)
Congratulations!!



Mr Ed Harding

edward.harding@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Special Achievements



We love seeing our students achieve at school and outside of school as well

A special congratulations to the Shearer crew! At the Athletics Carnival a few weeks ago, I think we had a feat that hasn't happened before at our school – or at least not for a very, very long time!!

Three siblings winning the same event. **Tylah (Year 7), Logan (Year 5) and Noah (Year 3)** all won the 1500m race. What a fabulous achievement! Congratulations to you all.

Equestrian

We have some super equestrian competitors in our midst as well!

Congratulations to Sienna (Foundation) and Olivia Cleave (Year 5)

Olivia and Sienna went to the Kyabram Show a few weeks ago and won lots of ribbons, with both girls coming home as champions.

Olivia also competed at a 2 day horse trials competition (Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country) at Mansfield over last weekend and came 5th out of 26 riders.... even after being bitten on the neck by a wasp.

Olivia is also competing from the 9th to 12th of April at the Werribee Equestrian Centre.

Olivia competed last year to qualify for this year's State event. She competes in the primary section.

We are so thrilled to have a competitor at this prestigious event – good luck Olivia!!! We will be cheering you on.





St Mary's students in years 3-6 were invited to participate in a Mathletics Challenge during the week of March 21st to 25th.

Mathletics sponsored the event by providing gold, silver, and bronze medals, wristbands, stickers and a T-Shirt.

On Friday the leader board was generated and **congratulations** to the following top 10 students. The presentations took place at the end of lunchtime on Monday after much anticipation and excitement!

Gold Medallist - Finn Melville 5A



Silver Medallist - Wyatt Newsome 5B



Bronze Medallist - Zahira Wilson 6B



Yenuli Dissanayake 3A



Ava Gordon 4A



Udaveer Bhatti 5B



Christian Donn 6B



Isabel Gordon 4B.



Sahibdil Sidhu 5B



Alba Bruce 3B



Library Notes

It would be great if everyone can check all the hiding places at home, that school library books seem to go! We'd love all the books you are finished reading to come back to school so someone else can enjoy them too!

All students in years F-6 have completed their year level Unit 1 – 'Introduction to ICT' across the curriculum during the team-teaching Digital Technology sessions offered this term. Students and teachers have been very engaged and have worked at a fast pace to complete the activities.

Ms Christine Buhler

christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Defence School Mentor



Defence News

Our Anzac Liturgy this year will be held the first day back in second term on Tuesday April 26th in the Multi-Purpose Hall, commencing at 11.30am. It would be wonderful to see as many Defence families come along and participate with us and I look forward to seeing you and sharing a cuppa and Anzac biscuit after the Liturgy.



Anzac Appeal

In support of the Anzac Appeal there will be assorted Anzac badges, pens, wristbands etc., for sale. Prices are from \$1 to \$5. I will be selling items before school near the corner of the Mercy Centre on Friday April 1st, Monday April 4th and Wednesday April 6th for anyone wanting to purchase items for Anzac Day.

DCO Defence Family Helpline

Support, local community information and advice is available for ADF families through the Defence Family Helpline. It operates 24-7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists. This is the best way to access DCO programs and services offered to help Defence families manage the military way of life. Phone-1800 624 608 or Email- DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

Mrs Janice Kerris

janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

College Calendar

Term 1		
Week 10A	Mon 4 Apr	College Open Day – Tours at 10am, 2pm & 5:30pm
	Fri 8 Apr	Easter Liturgy, Stations of the Cross - 9am
	Fri 8 Apr	Last Day Term 1 - Students finish at 2:30pm
Term 2		
Week 1B	Mon 25 Apr	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
	Tue 26 Apr	Staff and Students return Day 1 - Term 2

Bell Times 2021	
<i>Supervision of students begins at 8:30am</i>	
Homeroom	8:45 – 8:55
Period 1	8:55 – 9:55
Period 2	9:55 – 10:55
Recess	10:55 – 11:20
Period 3	11:25 – 12:25
Period 4	12:25 – 1:25
Lunch	1:25 – 2:10
Period 5	2:15 – 3:15

Cycle Dindi 
over the hills and not so far away

**SATURDAY
2 APRIL 2022**

A charity bicycle event along the Great Victorian Rail Trail

Registrations open January 2022
E: cycledindi22@gmail.com

The event on the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be centred on the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra. There will be a choice of 3 starting points, all converging on the banks of the Goulburn River at Cathkin for lunch.

This event is a fund raiser for Rotary Youth Projects.

Cycle Dindi 22 is a COVIDSafe event, conducted in accordance with applicable Covid regulations.

Rotary
Clubs of Alexandra and Yea and the Friends of the GVRT



What do I get for my money?

- Billy tea, damper and BBQ lunch at Cathkin
- Free admission to Nutfield a working farm, with free Devonshire Tea in the shearing shed, sheep dog demonstration and trailer ride.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

DISTANCE	
Yea to Merton (return)	93 kms
Merton to Yea (return)	93 kms
Merton to Cathkin (return)	51 kms
Yea to Cathkin (return)	42 kms
Yea to Alexandra (return)	68 kms
Alexandra to Yea (return)	68 kms
Alexandra to Cathkin (return)	26 kms

Interested?
contact Melinda (Alexandra) 0418 378 806
Julie (Yea) 0447 762 557
or Ross (Mansfield) 0439 046 199
www.rotaryalexandra.org.au
www.yearotary.org.au

How Much?
Adult \$45
Senior \$35
Concession \$10




<https://www.trybooking.com/BVQGK>

• Concession applies to school age children
• Under school age free
• SNR – relevant Seniors' card must be held
• Group discount available on request

Whittlesea Community House

"Changing the pattern of your life through learning and community connection"

Maths homework club



TUESDAYS FROM MAY 3RD, 2022
4.15PM—5.30PM

Join Glenda our favourite volunteer school teacher each week and get the extra help you need with your maths homework. Suitable for students from Grade 3—Year 9

Bring a snack

Please call for initial registration 9716 3361

Whittlesea Community House—92A Church St, Whittlesea

IT'S FREE!

Phone 9716 3361 • www.wchi.com.au • 92A Church Street, Whittlesea, Victoria, 3757

Cycle Dindi 2022 Saturday April 2nd.

Cycle Dindi 2022 is a charity cycle event, based around the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra to be held on the Great Vic Rail Trail.

The event, organised by the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra and the Friends of the GVRT group, is a fundraiser to assist local youth to participate in Rotary Youth programs.

This is the 6th year the event has been conducted and it is a great day out on the GVRT for both the more experienced rider as well as families with wonderful country hospitality on offer including Devonshire tea, working dog trials and trailer ride at Nutfield Molesworth, plus BBQ lunch, damper and billy tea at Cremona by the Goulburn River at Cathkin (all included in the cost). Various ride options and prices are available.

Check out www.yearotary.org.au and the Cycle Dindi FB page or contact Julie 0447762557 for further details.

Bookings can be made at Try Booking www.trybooking.com/BVQGK

St Mary's College

90 High Street, Seymour
Telephone: (03) 5792 2611
PO Box 269, Seymour 3661
Office Hours: 8:15am-4:30pm

St Mary's Parish Seymour ~ St Joseph's Tallarook

Parish Priest: Father Eugene Ashkar
Telephone: (03) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509
Mass Times: St Mary's - SAT 6:00pm, SUN 10:00am;
St Joseph's - SUN 8:30am