



# Alkira Secondary College 8874

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## Issue No. 27 - Friday 4th November 2011

### Principal's Message

*"A hug is worth a thousand words. A friend is worth more." Anon*

### Students left in limbo Cranbourne School warns funding cuts may jeopardise future education programs

A CRANBOURNE school's ability to offer a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning is in jeopardy because of funding cuts. The program was due to run at Alkira Secondary College in 2013, but the program is under threat after the State Government cut \$48 million in co-ordinator funding. Principal Ian Mckenzie said there was a possibility the program would not run at the school.

"The school is only three years old and because of this we have never had an established curriculum and experienced staff, so we really need the funding to set ourselves up," Mr Mckenzie said. "If I don't run it, students will have to be directed elsewhere to do VCAL, or they might not do it at all."

Robbie Lelliott, 15, is one of those students. His mother Lorraine said she was worried about the future of her son's education.

"Robbie has a learning difficulty and he was going to do VCAL because he can't do VCE. Kids like him will miss out," Ms Lelliott said.

I was planning to keep Robbie at Alkira, now I have to run around and try and find a suitable school that will take him for VCAL. I am beside myself. I don't even know where to go from here."

Narre Warren South MP Judith Graley said the funding cuts would dismantle important educational work. "The funding cut will limit choices and options for students, many of whom will not stay at school if they do not have access to the VCAL program," she said. "The Government must reverse this cruel and callous decision so that Alkira Secondary College and other schools can provide VCAL."

Minister for Education spokesman James Martin said the department would work with schools that were new or looking to establish VCAL. "The only change to funding relates to the special co-ordination payment. Funding to support student participation will continue to increase in line with student numbers," Mr Martin said.

**CRANBOURNE LEADER 2ND NOVEMBER 2011**

## CALENDAR—2011

### TERM 4

#### November

Wed 2-4th	Year 9 Camp—Summit
Fri 4th	Year 8 Casey Library incursion
Wed 9-11th	Year 9 Duke of Ed Sailing Camp
Thurs 10th	Year 8 excursion White & Blue House
Mon 14th	World Challenge Visit (see article below)
Tues 15th	Year 8 excursion Red & Green House
Wed 16th & Thurs 17th	Production evenings
Wed 23rd	Grade 6—2012 information evening

#### December

Tues 13th	Grade 6—2012 Orientation Day
Wed 14th	Star Awards
Thurs 15th	End of Year Activities until 20th

#### February 2012

Thurs 2nd Feb	School Starts for students
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### WORLD CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY

A representative from World Challenge will be visiting Alkira and talking to the Year 8 and 9 students this coming Monday.

World Challenge is a company that organises overseas experiences for students, usually by supervising teams of students who undertake project work in developing countries. The trips are financed by student fundraising. The target destination for the Alkira team will be China and the scheduled date for the trip will be November 2013.

If you are interested (Year 8 and 9 only) there will be further information at a parent information evening on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm**. Please return the form that your child will bring home to confirm your attendance.

Mr. Kerr



## Issue No. 27 - Friday 4th November 2011

### EVERY WEDNESDAY IS NUDE FOOD DAY!

Don't forget every Wednesday is now a Nude Food Day (Rubbish-Free Day), so please remember to leave packaged food at home and bring fresh foods or foods packed in reusable containers for recess. All parents help in making Alkira a cleaner and healthier school will be much appreciated.



### ALL SUBJECT SELECTIONS FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 2012 HAVE NOW CLOSED

Any students who were unable to enter their preferences online must collect a form from the General Office, list their preferences have it signed by parents and returned to Mr Shaw ASAP.

Enrolment into preferences cannot be guaranteed if selections are submitted after **Monday November 7.**

**Mr. Shaw**

### INSTALMENT 3 OF HOU YI—CHANG ER STORY



Hou Yi climbed the highest mountain and shouted towards the heavens, "Gods please hear me! The people in the village are suffering. The temperature is too high and we will all soon die if things don't improve. Can you please revert your roles to the way it used to be!"

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2012

## Scholarships available to Year 7 Students

### **John and Maud Askew Scholarships 2**

#### **Scholarship details**

- Sponsored by the ANZ Trustees
  - Valued at \$600
  - Available for one year
- Several scholarships awarded each year.

#### **Who can apply**

- Students who completed **Year 7, 8, 9, 10** or **11** in 2011 in a Victorian government school
  - Students involved in school and community activities
- Families or students who demonstrate financial need.

#### **What documentation you need to provide**

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
  - Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities
- Evidence of the applicant receiving Youth Allowance or the Education Maintenance Allowance (for those students under the age of 16 years).

#### **Application Closing Date**

31 January 2012

#### **Further information**

John and Maud Askew bequeathed funds for the benefit and advancement of Victorian government primary and secondary school students.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

## Scholarships available to Year 8 Students

### **Angela Taylor Scholarships**

#### **Scholarship details**

- Sponsored by the Police Association
  - Valued at \$250
  - Available for one year
- Two scholarships awarded each year.

#### **Who can apply**

- Students who completed **Year 8** in 2011 in a Victorian school
  - Students with a parent/guardian who is a member of the police force, a police pensioner or a police widow
- Students involved in school and community activities.

#### **What documentation you need to provide**

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
  - Evidence that the applicant's parent/guardian is a member of the Victorian police force, a police pensioner or a police widow
- Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

#### **Application Closing Date**

31 January 2012

#### **Further information**

Constable Angela Taylor was tragically killed while on duty. These scholarships are awarded in memory of her bravery.

## Constable Howell Memorial Scholarships

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the Victorian Police Provident Fund
- Valued at \$2000
- Available for one year

Two scholarships awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 8** in 2011 in a Victorian school
- Students involved in school and community activities.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
- Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

### Further information

Constable George Howell was tragically killed while on duty. These scholarships are awarded in memory of his bravery and devotion to duty.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

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## John and Maud Askew Scholarships 2

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the ANZ Trustees
- Valued at \$600
- Available for one year

Several scholarships awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 7, 8, 9, 10** or **11** in 2011 in a Victorian government school
  - Students involved in school and community activities
- Families or students who demonstrate financial need.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
  - Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities
- Evidence of the applicant receiving Youth Allowance or the Education Maintenance Allowance (for those students under the age of 16 years).

### Further information

John and Maud Askew bequeathed funds for the benefit and advancement of Victorian government primary and secondary school students.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

## R S Marr Scholarship

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
  - Valued at \$300
  - Available for one year
- One scholarship awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 8** in 2011 in a Victorian government school
- Students involved in school and community activities.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
- Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

### Further information

- In 1946, funds were bequeathed by Robert Sterne Marr to provide a scholarship in perpetuity for the promotion and encouragement of education in Victoria.
- The money is paid to the student's school for essential educational items for which parents are normally expected to pay or pay the school to provide. These essential items do not include voluntary contributions. At the end of the year the remaining balance is paid to the parent/guardian for the benefit of the student.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

## Scholarships available to Year 9 Students

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### Curson Memorial Scholarships

#### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the Victorian Police Provident Fund
  - Valued at \$2000
  - Available for one year
- Two scholarships awarded each year.

#### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 9** in 2011 in a Victorian school
  - Students with a parent/guardian who is a member of the Victorian police force, a police pensioner or a police widow
- Students involved in school and community activities.

#### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
  - Evidence that the applicant's parent/guardian is a member of the Victorian police force, a police pensioner or a police widow
- Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

#### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

#### Further information

Senior Constable Charles Norman Curson was tragically killed while on duty. These scholarships are awarded in memory of his bravery and devotion to duty.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

## E C James Scholarship

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the Police Association
- Valued at \$750
- Available for one year

One scholarship awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 9** in 2011 in a Victorian school
- Students with a parent/guardian who is a member of the Victorian police force, a police pensioner or a police widow

Students involved in school and community activities.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
- Evidence that the applicant's parent/guardian is a member of the Victorian police force, a police pensioner or a police widow

Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

### Further information

This scholarship is awarded in memory of the late E C James.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

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## Frank Carey Memorial Scholarships

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Locomotive Division
- Valued at \$350
- Available for one year

Two scholarships awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 9** in 2011 in a Victorian school
- Students who completed **Year 6** in 2011 in a Victorian school
- Students with a parent/guardian who is a financial member of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Locomotive Division

- Students involved in school and community activities.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
- Evidence that the applicant's parent/guardian is a financial member of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, Locomotive Division

Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities.

**Application Closing Date** 31 January 2012

Applications closed 31/01/2012

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## John and Maud Askew Scholarships 2

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by the ANZ Trustees
- Valued at \$600
- Available for one year

Several scholarships awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 7, 8, 9, 10** or **11** in 2011 in a Victorian government school
  - Students involved in school and community activities
- Families or students who demonstrate financial need.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
  - Statement confirming the applicant's involvement in school and community activities
- Evidence of the applicant receiving Youth Allowance or the Education Maintenance Allowance (for those students under the age of 16 years).

### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

### Further information

John and Maud Askew bequeathed funds for the benefit and advancement of Victorian government primary and secondary school students.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

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## R.M. Ansett Trust Scholarships

### Scholarship details

- Sponsored by Equity Trustees Limited
  - Funded by the R. M. Ansett Trust
  - Valued at \$5000
  - Available for three years (Years 10 - 12), subject to satisfactory academic progress and completion of secondary school
- Ten scholarships awarded each year.

### Who can apply

- Students who completed **Year 9** in 2011 in a Victorian government school who are intending to complete their VCE in a Victorian government school
- Families or students who demonstrate financial need.

### What documentation you need to provide

- Applicant's 2011 academic results
- Evidence of the applicant receiving Youth Allowance or the Education Maintenance Allowance (for those students under the age of 16 years).

### Application Closing Date

31 January 2012

### Further information

- Students awarded this scholarship in previous years need to fax their 2011 academic results to **(03) 9637 3600** by 31 January 2012.
- Sir Reginald Ansett was a renowned Australian businessman and aviator, and founded Ansett Airlines. It was one of Australia's leading domestic airlines between 1937 and 2001. These scholarships are made available to encourage students to stay in school and complete their secondary education.

Applications closed 31/01/2012

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator

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## How to know you are doing a good job

We all want to know we are doing a good job as a parent. Here's a guide to help you assess if you're on track as a parent.

At the end of a parenting evening a mother asked a question I'd never been asked before – 'How do I know I'm doing a good job as a parent?'

Top question, that gets to the heart of parenting. You don't get a lot of feedback as a mum or a dad to know if you are on track.

Without becoming too technical here's a rough guide to help you assess if you are doing a good job as a parent. Ask yourself these questions (by the way, I'm assuming you are meeting kids' physical needs of food, sleep and the like):

- 1. Are your kids, by and large, happy and content (even your grumpy child)?** The notion of happiness & contentment is an indicator of a child's well-being. It indicates that there is some stability and predictability at home, which kids need to thrive.
- 2. Is family-life relatively predictable & stable?** Most kids like routine and order as it enables them to focus on what they are meant to be doing – which is growing, learning and developing. When there is order and routine kids can focus their energies on these things, rather than try to work out what may be happening next.
- 3. Is the environment you provide psychologically and physically safe?** Some kids grow up in toxic environments where criticism and bullying is rife, and kids can do as they wish, which puts their safety at risk. Encouragement, praise, positive feedback, catching kids doing the right thing or being brave all make up a psychologically safe environment.
- 4. Are kids learning and developing?** This is an indicator that things are going well for kids. I know some kids experience difficulty, but effective parenting involves clearing the path to learning for all children.
- 5. Do you feel like you are in charge, or do children rule the roost?** Someone needs to be the leader of the family, and it's best if it's an adult. Okay, all kids push the boundaries. It's their job. But parents, by and large, need to direct the daily action and make wise decisions for kids. Kids should make some decisions, but only according to their age and stage of development.
- 6. Do you give kids opportunities to socialise with other kids and adults?** As a parent you have some say in directing the socialisation process for kids. They need to learn to get along with others and move from 'me' to 'we'. You help this process by providing opportunities to socialise, teaching manners and reminding them (all the time) about 'getting on' with others.

**7. Are you developing the skills of independent living?** The job of every parent is to work toward redundancy so effective parents do more with kids, and less for them.

**8. Is love and affection in the air (balanced by firmness)?** Kids need to feel loved and that they are loveable. You let kids know they are loved through your actions and words. Being told 'I love you' by an adult you respect and admire is an incredibly reassuring, empowering thing.

**9. Is family-life fun.....at least some of the times?** Humour and fun are the building blocks for mental health (& relationships too). They relieve tension and stress. *That's why dads who tell jokes (even if they're really bad!) are welcome in families.*

**10. Do other people think you're doing a good job?** How would most people assess your parenting? There will always be some people who think you are doing a poor job of it (sometimes they are related to you), but what would the majority of people say? Would they give you a thumbs up or a thumbs down?

**11. Are you happy in your role?** This is tricky. We all get down on ourselves and our kids from time to time. But hopefully you are getting some joy from your parenting. If so, this will show through to your kids in lots of ways. If not, then perhaps you need to work out what's stopping you, and then make plans to change the situation. That could be working on your parenting skills (lack of skills prevents many parents from enjoying their parenting), or even getting some professional assistance if you feel that you are stuck in a parenting or personal rut.

Hopefully, you read this little list and **nodded** your head far more than you shook it. It's not meant to be an objective, comprehensive list. It's more of a subjective, **common sense checklist** to help you work out that in fact, YOU ARE DOING A GOOD JOB AS A PARENT!

We all try our best, and sometimes we mess up. But, by and large, kids forgive you your transgressions. But there is one thing that they all want. That is, they expect and rely on your fair dinkum, honest commitment to always act in their best interests. In some ways, that's the best test of effective parenting.

**Want to know if your parenting style is suitable for raising today's kids?**

Take my FREE *Which Parenting Style Are You?* Parenting quiz at [Parentingideas.com.au](http://Parentingideas.com.au) and discover your parenting style. There are also some practical implementation ideas to help you adopt a parenting style suitable for your kids today.

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