IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2009

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>18th February</td>
<td>Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal]</td>
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<td>Swimming sports years 7-12</td>
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<td>10-13th March</td>
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<td>18th March</td>
<td>Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal]</td>
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<td>3rd April</td>
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<td>20th April</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
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REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:
Please notify the relevant coordinator as soon as possible if your child is absent:

| Year 12 | Christine Farmakis | 9458 6141 |
| Year 11 | Mary Anagnostopoulos | 9458 6138 |
| Year 10 | Caroline McLachlan  | 9458 6167 |
| Year 9  | Lyndal Roper        | 9458 6113 |
| Year 8  | Anne Herschell [8A,B,C] | 9458 6150 |
|         | Georgia Stavrakis [8D,E,F] | 9458 6133 |
| Year 7  | Helen Herouvim      | 9458 6170 |

Our Community’s Response to the Bushfires

“The seventh of February 2009 will now be remembered as one of the darkest days in Australia’s peacetime history. A tragedy beyond belief, beyond precedent and really beyond words. It will be remembered as a day when the fires raged across the state, from Horsham in the west, Bendigo and Beechworth in the north and in an arc of destruction from West Gippsland to Kinglake and Kilmore.” - Julia Gillard, Parliament.

Many students and staff have been directly affected by the bushfires. It was blacker than the human tragedy of Black Friday 1939 and Ash Wednesday 1983 and our school community is keen to make a difference.

On Friday 13th February the school is having an out of uniform day and we hope to raise over $1000.

On Monday February 23rd, in partnership with the Furlan Club, the school community has organised a “You can make a difference” Concert at the Club from 5pm to 9pm.

Past student, Matt Commerford, is organising and coordinating the concert and it will include a number of bands and other musical performances. The cost of entry is $5 per person and $10 per family and drinks will be sold.

I hope to see many of our families during the evening.

Peter Egeberg  Principal

THS News February 12 2009
**PRINCIPAL’S CITIZENSHIP AWARD 2008**

This year there was a large number of students considered for the award which is a strong reflection on the quality of students we have at Thornbury High School. The recipient of this award must demonstrate a genuine contribution to the school and be an outstanding role model and care about the success and safety of others.

Trion Paleologou has demonstrated all these attributes. In his six years at the school Trion has been head school captain and represented the school in many different sports. He was a member of both the stage and concert band and received many academic awards in his time at the school.

Trion also represented the school on many occasions such as debating, youth forums, information evenings, band performances and at assemblies.

Trion genuinely cares about others, is hard working and always demonstrates integrity and compassion in everything he does at school and in the wider community. At the moment Trion is deciding between Business at La Trobe and Business Systems at RMIT.

Peter Egeberg  Principal

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**FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**SCHOOL FEES**

If we are to maintain the quality facilities and programs we have at Thornbury High School, we need to have all families contributing to our school via payments of charges and contributions.

Whilst most staffing and basic items are provided for through government funding, we need parent support through the payment of realistic charges that School Council has set. If we want our school to remain as one of the highly sought after high performing schools in the area and for your children to access programs, facilities and resources that will provide them with the best opportunity to achieve their best, your financial contribution to your child’s education is imperative!

If you have any issue with this, please do not hesitate to make a time to speak to the Business Manager/Assistant Principal/Principal.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The uniform shop will be open each Wednesday from 12:45pm until 2:00pm. This includes the shortened ‘blue’ Wednesdays.

**PICKING UP STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL**

Could parents/guardians picking up your child[ren] after school please enter and exit by the Matisi Street gates and wait for your child[ren] in the back car park? The congestion in the front car park and in Collins Street is horrendous and an accident waiting to happen.

**PERSONAL GOODS BOUGHT TO SCHOOL**

The Education Department has sent us out a memo asking that we remind parents and students that personal items that are bought to school are done so at the owner’s risk.

The Department does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to the school by students, staff and visitors. This includes such items as – mobile phones, Ipods, calculators and cars parked on school premises.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Student accident insurance is available from the private insurance market.

Thank you for your support

Meredith Stephenson  Assistant Principal

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**KAYE COGLAN AWARD FOR SCHOOL DUX: ZAKI BENAMAR**

Zaki Benamar has shown outstanding commitment and dedication towards his studies throughout his time at Thornbury High School. He is well respected by his teachers” and fellow students and has been an excellent role model to the junior students.

Zaki’s interests extended beyond the classroom into sports- in particular soccer at which he is very talented.

However, Zaki’s main focus in VCE was to work towards achieving his goal of becoming an engineer. Zaki achieved excellent results across the Maths and Science subjects and consequently was successful in gaining entry to complete Engineering at the University of Melbourne. We wish Zaki every success in his future endeavours.

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**COMMON ASSESSMENT TASKS [CATS] FOR SEMESTER 1 2009**

- The CATs are common tasks which have been developed by the teachers of the year level (7 to 10). Each CAT has consistent assessment criteria across the subject and year level.
These tasks were developed to assess student progress, to ensure acceptable work standards and to help students manage their time and meet deadlines.

Many of the CATs will be completed in class, but some parts of the work will have to be completed outside the class room. Students will need, in some cases, to complete a number of classroom tasks as preparation for the CATs.

Students at years 7 – 10 must work towards completing all CATs to an acceptable standard. Integration students may have modified tasks.

The CATs may consist of tests, assignments, work folios, oral presentations or homework tasks.

A list of all Compulsory Assessment Tasks along with the Policy for submitting CATs will be mailed home in the week beginning Monday 23rd February and will be available on the School website from this date.

Students at years 7 – 10 must work towards completing all CATs to an acceptable standard. Integration students may have modified tasks.

The CATs may consist of tests, assignments, work folios, oral presentations or homework tasks.

A list of all Compulsory Assessment Tasks along with the Policy for submitting CATs will be mailed home in the week beginning Monday 23rd February and will be available on the School website from this date.

Curriculum Team

Staff & students [Andrew pictured with Ms Ryan] worked together to have the new learning Centre ready for the year 7’s. Daniel Kapitan, absent from photo, also assisted with the painting.

STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2008

The school is pleased with the success of the class of 2008 in finding a pathway to the future. Almost every student who applied for a tertiary position at the end of 2008 has now obtained an offer of tertiary study with 70% receiving their first or second preference.

Over 40% of our students have enrolled in a degree program in 2009. The largest group are attending RMIT University followed by Melbourne University with the others at a range of institutions. The school Dux, Zaki Benamar is studying Engineering at Melbourne. The range of courses being undertaken includes Pharmaceutical Science, Criminal Justice, Science, Medical Radiations, Accounting, Nursing, Property and others. Kerry-Dean Glennon, who is also studying Engineering at Melbourne and Michael Huynh, who is studying Medical Radiations at RMIT, deserve special congratulations as they are both the recipients of the Dafydd Lewis Trust Scholarship which entitles them to $18,000.00 per year over three years. Only ten of these scholarships were awarded in Victoria and two went to Thornbury High students, an impressive achievement.

Another group have enrolled in a variety of TAFE Diploma courses such as Administration, Engineering, Interior Design, Multimedia, Computer Systems, Myotherapy and Information Technology while others are undertaking pre-apprenticeship courses in preparation to become electricians, plumbers and chefs. We also have a number of students who have moved directly into the work force or who are undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship. A few students have chosen to take a gap year and plan to travel overseas. We see all these destinations as equally valuable and are proud of the energy and determination they have shown in making the transition to the next phase of their lives. We wish them all the best and encourage them to visit us in the future.

David Smith MIPS Coordinator

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Welcome back to all the students. I am sure parents are relieved to return to some kind of routine. We are, as usual, busy planning some fun, inspirational and informative programs for students in each year level this year so it is important that you read the school newsletter. You might like to visit our website to read some past newsletters as well as the current one on www.thornburyhs.edu.au.

Our student wellbeing team comprises Karen Hutchinson, school social worker [who will be able to see students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this year]; Jo Apostolopoulos, our youth worker [who will be in from Monday to Thursday all year working mainly with the Year 7 and 8 students] and Emily Graham, the school nurse [who will be here every Thursday and Friday]. If you have any concerns about your child please contact your child’s coordinator first and matters will be forwarded to the student wellbeing team.

Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter about our student wellbeing programs this year at THS. Keep smiling.

Barbara Carydis Student Wellbeing Coordinator
SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We wish to welcome back all students and wish our Year 12s the best of luck as they complete their final Year of schooling.

We are currently planning the Year 12 VCE Parent Information Night and look forward to seeing all VCE students with their parent/guardians on Thursday 26th February. A letter will be sent home this week. We would appreciate if all parents could complete and return to reply slip.

In Year 11 we are excited about our Pastoral Camp to Queensland. We depart on Saturday 28th March and return on April 3rd. A deposit of $130.00 is required by February 20th in order to secure a place.

Any queries relating to the Senior School can be directed to:
Mary Anagnostopoulos (Yr.11) 9458 6138
Christine Farmakis (Yr.12) 9458 6141
Maria Ioannidis 9458 6137
Senior School Team.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT:
The balls have arrived! Year 7 and 8 students can borrow sports equipment starting next Monday from the Year 7 office window.

LABEL CLOTHES/BOOKS:
The coordinators receive a large delivery of books and uniform items at the end of each day. With names written on these items, we can quickly return them to students. Please label your child’s books and uniform.

ABSENCES:
Thank you to all parents who have been calling through absences to their child’s coordinators. This is an excellent way to communicate with the coordinators and makes their job much easier 😊

JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM
Mark Gillies (Year 7/8 Manager)
Grant Wason/Helen Herouvim (Year 7 Coordinators)
Georgia Stavrakis/Anne Herschell (Year 8 Coordinators)

SPORT’S NEWS

SWIMMING SPORTS
Thornbury High School will be holding it’s annual swimming carnival on FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY at the Northcote Aquatic Centre. Events are open to all students from Yr 7 – VCE and it’s a great way to earn House Points. Only those students that have signed up to compete will be taken down to the pool, all classes will run as normal on the day. Any students who have not signed up need to do so as soon as possible.

TERM 1 SPORT
Cricket will open the 2009 sports calendar, with THS entering teams across all year levels from 7 – 12 we hope to have plenty of success out in the field. Other sports available this term include Volleyball, Baseball, Softball and Tennis. Make sure you have signed up for your chosen sport and turn up to all try-out and training sessions.

Don’t forget Thornbury High School’s biggest event of the year: the Athletics Carnival is also held during term 1 and is scheduled for Wednesday 25th March.
Miss Ruhe  Sport Coordinator.

MUSIC NEWS

Hello Music students and welcome to 2009. This year will be a very busy year in the music department with three new staff members including myself joining. Welcome to Marc Matthews who will be teaching lower brass, and Stu Kinlaid who is replacing Nick on percussion for Term One.

Congratulations to Nick who has a new addition to the family ‘Emily Charlotte’. We all hope your time off will be enjoyed thoroughly.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We have got off to a flying start this year. The new Year 7 students have settled in and are now feeling at home in the Year 7 centre.

Our Year 8 students have now made the old Year 9/10 corridor their new home. We would like to welcome Georgia Stavrakis as a second coordinator to join the wonderful Ms Herschell in the Year 8 team!

S.R.C:
Nomination forms are available to any Year 7 or 8 students interested in making a difference to the Junior School. Exciting plans are being put in place for the set up of special activities and clubs. An after-school Theatre Sports/Drama club is high on the agenda!

CAMP PAYMENTS:
Reminder to parents that full payment for the Year 7 camp is due on Friday, 27th February. Please make payments through the front office.
Senior Concert Band rehearsals have started and run Tuesday after school until 4:45 pm.
Year 8 Band starts rehearsals Tuesday 17th Feb every Tuesday from 8:00 am.
Junior Jazz starts rehearsals Monday 16th Feb after school until 4:30 pm.
Year 7 Band rehearsals don’t start until Term 2 but will be held Wednesday mornings from 8:15 am.
All instrument hire forms and band contracts should now be handed in. If you have lost yours, see me TODAY!
There have been several students interested in learning Violin, Viola and piano. I want to organise a private teacher to come in to the school one day per week. Please see me ASAP in the Music Department if you are interested.
The brand new sustainable recording studio is in the final months of building. Keep your eyes out for guest performances in the meantime.

Kyle Schutz  Music Coordinator

HOMEWORK CLUB

Thornbury High will be running a Homework Club every MONDAY and every Gold WEDNESDAY between 3.20pm - 4.00pm. The two Homework Club co-ordinators are Ms Stojanovski and Ms Strantzen who will be present to supervise and offer assistance with Maths/Science and English/Humanities. Students will work in the LIBRARY and are expected to bring the appropriate and necessary books and equipment to complete the work.
Please note that this is a homework club…..free time on computers, games, chat sessions etc. will not be allowed and normal school rules will apply.

Snezana Stojanovski  Denyse Strantzen

MATHLETICS

The Mathematics faculty would like to welcome everyone back to the new school year. All students at Thornbury High School will have access to Mathletics, an on-line Mathematics resource which helps students enjoy Mathematics and improve their results. Mathletics covers the full primary and secondary curriculum. Students have access to Mathletics 24 hours a day 7 days a week from school and from home. Students in Years 7 will be introduced to the program by their Mathematics teacher. Mathletics will be utilised fortnightly as part of the Mathematics timetable for Years 7 to 10. Senior students can access the program at any time that is convenient to their busy schedule. Students are able to work through the curriculum at their own pace and online support is available. The program is adaptive as it tailors questions based on the ability of individual students. It also provides immediate feedback to students, teachers and parents. All students will be given a password and can access Mathletics via www.mathletics.com.au
If parents need any further information regarding Mathletics or other Mathematics matters they are welcomed to call or visit the Mathematics office (9458 6140).

Snezana Stojanovski  Mathematics Coordinator

On Friday the 20th March Year 12 VCAL students and SRC volunteers will be hosting a joint fundraising event to raise funds for the school’s ‘Horticulture Centre’ and also support the Leukaemia Foundation’s ‘Shave for a Cure’ cause.
To help raise valuable funds for Leukaemia research, students can get their hair coloured (using temporary, non-toxic hair-spray) for $3 or seek sponsorship and bravely shave their heads. This lunchtime event will take place on the stage of our new Year 7 building.
Plus if you’re feeling hungry after watching all the action you’ll only need to pop across to the VCAL Organic BBQ, they’ll be just out the front of the horticulture centre. Honouring sustainable principles, this BBQ promises a menu to make your mouth water; Halal steaks, Homemade snags and Veggie burgers which will be sold with prices starting at just $2.
Finally, for just $1 students may attend school in casual dress on this fun day. Proceeds of this money will go to sustainable projects around the school.
Parents and guardians are also welcome to attend on the day to experience the atmosphere!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

We welcome all students into the Middle school and extend a special welcome to all our new students and families. We hope you all have a safe, memorable and academically productive year.
A special thankyou to all our Year 10 Peer Support students [pictured page 8] who came to school a day early and assisted our new Year 7 students with their transition into secondary school. The day was full of
fun activities and their assistance and leadership was appreciated.

Our goal in the Middle school in 2009 is to improve our student’s work ethic and pride in their school and ensure that all our students can achieve their personal best in a safe and happy environment.

We encourage all our Year 10 students to start finalising their WORK EXPERIENCE placements for 2009. Work experience dates are Monday 15th June until Friday 19th June 2009. Forms that need to be signed by employers will be given to students in the next few weeks. Students who need assistance need to see Mr Barlow or Ms Vassos.

All Year 9 students are off to Camp Coorong on the 10th March to 13th March 2009. This camp is an adventure camp with a pastoral and curriculum focus related to Term one learning program. All Year 9 students are encouraged to attend and parents are reminded to make final payments as soon as possible. Please ring Ms Vassos with any queries on 94586112.

Middle School Team

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2009

At this stage it seems that all current parent members are happy to continue for another year. If you would like to assist the school council you may wish to come onto council as a community member or join one of the school council subcommittee. Please contact Peter Egeberg at the school if you are interested or have any questions.

EMA 2009 – DO YOU NEED TO APPLY?

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

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

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

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009 for the first instalment and 7 August 2009 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of $443 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Eligible parents now have the option to receive the 50% ‘parent portion’ of the EMA payment directly into the parent’s nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment. Please see the EMA application forms are now available from the school office.

SCHOOL START BONUS – YEAR 7

The School Start Bonus was introduced in 2006 to assist parents/guardians of Prep and Year 7 students to meet the start-up costs associated with commencing Primary and Secondary schooling.

Every student enrolled for the first time in Prep and Year 7 in Term I is eligible for the bonus. The School Start Bonus is separate from, and additional to, the Education Maintenance Allowance.

If you have not received your school start bonus or have misplaced it, please contact the school office on 9480 4066.

EDUCATION TAX REFUND

Parents/guardians entitled to Family Tax Benefit FTB Part A are reminded to keep their receipts to make the most of the Rudd Government’s $4.4 billion Education Tax Refund, which will be paid to families from July 1 this year. Provided parents keep their receipts, the Education Tax Refund will apply to some of the most common back to school items including laptops, home computers and associated costs, home internet connections, printers, education software, trade tools for use at school, school text books and stationery.

Parents are also eligible if they have children in primary or secondary school who would be eligible but for the fact that the child receives certain payments or allowances, for example: Youth Allowance,
Disability Support Pension and Abstudy Living Allowance.
With receipts, eligible families can claim a 50% refund every year for expenses up to $750 for each primary child and $1500 for each secondary child.
Where a family has education costs in excess of the refund limit, these costs can be carried over to the next financial year.

2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Year 7  David Butler, Dean Ioventti
Year 8  Kristina Tachtsis, Brianna Date
Year 9  Rebekah Dibenedetto, Katerina Kyprianou
Year 10 Michael Amato, Emilia Pertama

CROUCH SPORTS AWARDS
Year 7  Timmy Commerford, Stella Radford
Year 8  Kristina Tachtsis, Brent Watkins
Year 9  Dylan Dalla Via, Chris Mitrevski
Year 10 Chris Smith, Joshua Taylor

MUSIC AWARDS
Year 7/8  Damien Bryan, Michael Drummond
Year 9/10 Billy Tachtsis, Owen Jones

MATISI AWARD
Year 7  Sam Torre
Year 8  Josh Taylor
Year 9  Ben Diacos
Year 10 Rachel Mountney

PRINCIPAL ALL RUNNER UP AWARD
year 7  Stuart Hackett
year 7  Merryn Roe
year 8  Breanna Pettinella
year 9  Anthony Murphy
year 10 Martha Arkalis

CADDY TRUST/ ROTARY ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
YEAR 11  Mia Chau & Stella Foster
YEAR 10  Tara Degraft, Hayford
          Martha Arkalis
          Emilia Pertama

YEAR 11 SUBJECT AWARDS
Accounting  Virginia Fillopoulos
Biography  Gloria Glennon
Business Management  Georgia Lawrasia
          Jeremy Seddon
Personal Development  Andy Brewis
Chemistry  Areti Louzis
English  Stephanie Coulston
Foundation Math  Emily Farrugia
General Math  Georgia Lawrasia
          Jennifer Yang
History  Daniel Reed
Legal Studies  My Chau
Literature  Stephanie Coulston
Maths Methods  Jennifer Yang
Martin Ferguson Award  Khalid Ismail
Media  Dylan Elliott
Physics  Terry Plesiotis
Psychology  Georgia Lawrasia
Studio Arts Photography  James Todorov
VCAL English  Daniel Kapitan
VET Multimedia  Jayden Cornish
VET Furnishings  Shaan Dominitti
Visual Com and Design  Jeremy Seddon
Work Related Skills  Melisa Dasci

YEAR 12 SUBJECT AWARDS
Accounting  Jillie Ly
Biography  Lily Tran
Business Management  Daniel Wepukhulu
Chemistry  Michael Huynh
English  Biljana Celeski
Further Mathematics  Zaki Benamar
Health & Human Development  Suellan Jones
          Sean Moutney
History  Trion Paleologou
Legal Studies  Biljana Celeski
Literature  Emese Tran & Letisha Watson
Mathematical Methods  Michael Huynh
Music Performance Solo  Murray Gillin
Psychology  Kerry Glennon
Physical Education  Andoni Christou
          Billy Kyprianou
Physics  Zaki Benamar

Specialist Mathematics  Michael Huynh
Studio Arts Photography  Jessie Angus
VCAL English  Hayden Anderson
VCAL Personal Development  Sili Leota
VET Multimedia  Dylan Elliott
Visual Com & Design  Helen Croatto

SPECIAL AWARDS
Senior Music Award  Murray Gillin
Kayes Coghlan Award For THS Dux  Zaki Benamar
The Caltex All Rounder (Year 11)  Areti Louzis
The Caltex All Rounder (Year 12)  Ben Warren
The VCAL Award  Cynthia Dempster
Northcote R S L Scholarships:  (Academic Achievement)  Zaki Benamar
          Jillie Ly
David Gillin Award For Head Captain  Glen Dawson
          Trion Paleologou
H. V. Irving Sportswoman Award  Biliana Celeski
H. V. Irving Sportsman Award  Daniel Wepukhulu
Matissi Citizenship Award (female)  Cynthia Dempster
Matissi Citizenship Award (Male)  Kerry Glennon
Catherine Helen Spence Award -  [for Female Leadership]  Shelby Cree

TERM DATES 2009
TERM 1: Monday February 2nd - Friday April 3rd
TERM 2: Monday April 20th - Friday June 26th
TERM 3: Monday July 13th - Friday September 18th
TERM 4: Monday October 5th – Friday December 18th
SEASONAL FOOTBALL TRAINING

The “Gialloblu” Football Club will be establishing new squads in the 2009 season. We are seeking interested junior players to attend pre-season training and join the Under 13, Under 14 or Under 15 squads. Gialloblu will resume football training from the Tuesday the 3rd of March. We provide a variety of training locations, times and facilities to suite all players and members. The club family day will be held on Sunday the 15th March at the Furlan Club (1 Matisi St. Thornbury). For further information, please contact George by: Email: gialloblu@bigpond.com, or Phone: 0433 102 847

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER

In July 2009, students, aged 15 – 18 years, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

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

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website www.studensexchange.org.au

PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS [2009] GROCON