

## NEWSLETTER 2017 Thursday, 17 August

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### AUGUST

##### **18th Friday**

- China Visit Departs
- Whole School Assembly - SOM

##### **23rd Wednesday**

- Prep Practice 9-11.30am

##### **25th Friday**

- Whole School Book Week Day – ‘Escape to Everywhere’

##### **28th Monday**

- Yr 10 Work Experience begins (2 weeks)

##### **29th Tuesday**

- Pri Mini Olympics
- The Beat

##### **30th Wednesday**

The BEAT

##### **31st Thursday**

Father's Day Stall

#### SEPTEMBER

##### **1st Friday**

- Student Reports distributed
- Pri STEM Day

##### **5th Tuesday**

##### **Pupil Free Day**

##### **12th Tuesday**

Sec Interschool Athletics

##### **14th Thursday**

- RUOK Day

##### **15th Friday**

- Gr P-2 Sleepover
- Pri Sports

##### **22nd Friday**

Last day of Term 3

Earlier Dismissal time of 2.30pm  
Footy/Sports Colours Day (Whole School)

#### OCTOBER

##### **24th Tuesday**

Yr 10 Immunisations

#### NOVEMBER

##### **3rd Friday**

Grandparents' Day

##### **6th Monday**

Merbein College (Melbourne Cup)

### CHINESE VISIT REPORT – C. Blackie

This week Merbein P-10 College has welcomed seventeen students and nine teachers from our sister school Dali No.1 Middle School and Xiaguan No.1 Middle School in China. This is the eighth year of the China Exchange Program and we are proud to offer our students this fantastic opportunity.

This week our visitors and their hosts have been involved in activities at school and out in the community. Yesterday Chinese students worked with our Grade P-2 students, writing their names with Chinese characters and teaching them some basic Chinese phrases. In the afternoon, the Chinese students shared information and stories with our Grade 5-6 students, comparing life in China to life in Australia. Our Grade 5-6 students enjoyed the opportunity to learn about a different part of the world and asked many questions.

We would like to thank LaTrobe University for their generosity in hosting our welcome ceremony on Sunday and Mildura Rural City Council for providing a cruise on the PS Melbourne. We would also like to thank Mildura Fruit Company for allowing us to tour their state-of-the-art packing facilities. Merbein teachers and students were just as impressed as our Chinese visitors!

Most of all we would like to thank host students and families for welcoming students from Dali and Xiaguan into their homes and their lives, allowing them to experience an Australian family and community life.





**CHINA EXCHANGE REPORT** – G. Cupper (Principal)

On behalf of the Merbein P-10 College community, I would like to acknowledge the visit by staff and students from our Sister Schools in Dali, China, Dali No. 1 Middle School and Xiaguan No. 1 Middle School. The Principal of Xiaguan No. 1 Middle School, Mr Liu is the leader of the visiting students and staff.

Our guests arrived in Mildura last Sunday and were officially welcomed at the Latrobe University Campus by representatives of the Mildura Rural City Council, Merbein P-10 College and Red Cliffs Secondary College. The students also met their host families.

Mr Blackie and Mr Rhodes have both provided reports on some of the activities, which have included visits to local sites and presentations to Merbein P-10 students across a range of year levels.

This is the eighth consecutive annual exchange. It is always a privilege and an honour to be able to host visitors from our Sister schools in Dali. In September, students and staff from Merbein and Red Cliffs will make the return visit to Dali for what will be an unforgettable experience for them.

Conducting such an Exchange is very complex and requires considerable planning. On behalf of Merbein P10 College, I would like to thank Chris Blackie who has coordinated the 2017 China Exchange in such a thorough and organised manner, George Yang for his important assistance and the local families who have generously offered their homes to host the Chinese students. Thanks also to the numerous staff members who have contributed in so many ways.

**PUPIL FREE DAY** – G. Cupper

Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> September is a Pupil Free Day. There will be no school for students on this day.

**NAPLAN** – G. Rhodes

NAPLAN information is to be distributed Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

The NAPLAN information for Years 3,5,7 and 9 students arrived in our school today. The school will now collate the information for parents and put them in envelopes for distribution to families next Tuesday. **The envelopes will be sent home with your child, unless you contact the office and ask for the information to be mailed directly to you.**



## Father's Day Stall

**Thursday 31st August**  
**11:30am - 2pm**  
**Green Building**

Primary students will visit during classes.

Secondary students can visit during lunchtime.

Prices starting at \$1.

Parent helpers always welcome. Contact us via the school Facebook page or [fetherston.kyra.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:fetherston.kyra.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### MONDAY'S ASSEMBLY AND NAIDOC DAY REPORT – G. Rhodes

Last Monday our Primary Students and visitors from China participated in our annual NAIDOC Day celebrations. Orion Hunt our Koorie Education Officer worked hard to ensure an engaging program for all students in the Primary section. The activities were held throughout the morning following a whole school assembly. At the assembly, Mr Cupper welcomed our Chinese visitors and spoke of the significance of the NAIDOC celebrations for our community. Mr Liu (Principal of our host school in China) addressed the assembly, which was translated by the accompanying English teacher. He spoke fondly of the positive relationship that has developed between our schools and communities. He also spoke very fondly of the experience his only child had when she visited Sunraysia in 2011. His daughter still keeps in contact with her "Australian Family". His daughter is in her final year of study at University where she is studying Veterinary Science. She decided to study Veterinary Science after having close encounters with many animals on her visit to Australia.

### STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is away from school, please send a note or email the following address:

[Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Collihole.heather.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**R.J. SHIELD CHESS TOURNAMENT** - Posted on Facebook this week by Sunraysia Daily "ATHLETES of the Brain" matched wits yesterday in round three of the R.J. Shield Chess Tournament. Players across four age groups played seven games apiece at Mildura South Primary School in a bid to amass the highest score and take first, second or third place and set themselves up to take out the championship in October.

Sunraysia Chess Club Vice-President Kathie McManus said players played four rounds from March to October as part of the tournament, which aimed to find the best player of each age group at the end of the year.

Riley Nokes, 11, plays Curtis Crabtree, 10.



### DALI NO 1 MIDDLE SCHOOL (CHINA) VISIT UPDATE– G. Rhodes

This week we welcomed a contingent of students and teachers from Dali in South Western China. The students have stayed with families from our school from Sunday night and will be leaving from the Mildura Airport on the Virgin Flight at about 11.30am on Saturday. During the week, Mr Blackie has arranged a number of activities in and out of school for the students and their host families. Our primary students have had opportunity to have time with our Chinese visitors in class. Our secondary students have had some time with our Chinese visitors in their regular classes and in the yard where they have played some games.

Tomorrow, Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> August we will hold a whole school assembly where our Student of the Month Awards will be presented. At this assembly, our Chinese visitors will entertain us with some traditional and contemporary performances. Some of our own staff and students will also be performing, including our principal.

**If you would like to attend this event please contact Greg Rhodes at the college.**

## PARENT DIRECT TOY FUNDRAISER

**Catalogues for our Parent Direct Toy Fundraiser have been sent home with the youngest child in the primary section.** The school will receive up to 25% off all sales to purchase valuable learning resources for our primary students. Parents can log onto the website, browse the catalogue, purchase online and have the toys delivered to their own address or to the school. Delivery is free for purchases over \$150.00. Please ensure you select Merbein P-10 College so we receive the vouchers. Alternately, parents can complete the order form in the catalogue and return to school. The website is - <http://www.parentdirect.com.au/>

## FREE LEADING DIGITAL MATHS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

Westpac is sponsoring this program called Mathspace Essentials designed for Year 3-12 students to help Aussie kids with their maths. It is a new kind of digital textbook that is dynamic, truly interactive and available online, including on mobile and tablet devices and students can use it in the classroom as well as at home.

It includes interactive step-by-step hints and feedback, ability for students to complete their working-out online and video lessons. Sign-up for free at [www.mathspace.co/westpac/educator/](http://www.mathspace.co/westpac/educator/)

To find out more information about the program go to [info.westpac.com.au/200](http://info.westpac.com.au/200)

## NEWSLETTER EMAILED

Families who have not received the newsletter via email are asked to email the newsletter co-ordinator at the following email address: [Giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Giddings.beth.l@edumail.vic.gov.au). Please add your name and your child's name. We will then update our database so you can receive the newsletter in good time each week.

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 2018

We are offering local businesses the opportunity to advertise in our weekly newsletter commencing in 2018. Our newsletter goes out to over 400 families as well as a number of community organisations. We have 10 business card size advertising spaces available on the back page and the cost is \$200.00 for the year. If you wish to take up this advertising opportunity, please email your expression of interest to [merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:merbein.p10@edumail.vic.gov.au).

## BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The Merbein & District Community Bank & Merbein Development Association are financially supporting the Breakfast Program. Foodbank Victoria also supports the breakfast program with donations of food. The following organisations also provide volunteers to assist with the program; Merbein P10 College Parents' Club, the Board & Staff of the Merbein & District Community Bank, Merbein Development Association, Merbein Lions Club, Merbein Uniting Church and Merbein Rotary. If you are able to volunteer to help in the Breakfast Program, please contact Haley at the Merbein & District Community Bank. The Breakfast Program is held in the school cafeteria. All students are welcome to come along between 8.00am and 8.45am each morning if they would like a FREE tasty breakfast to kick-start their day's learning.

## SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

BSB - 063 714

Bank Acc Number – 10060535

Account Name - Merbein P-10 College Official Account.

## UNIFORM SHOP

Open Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30am

Open Thursday 2.00 – 4.00pm

## PLAY GROUP - TOTAL LEARNING CENTRE (TLC)

This playgroup is free of cost and is for children aged 0-5. It is held at Merbein P-10 College from 9.30-11am every Thursday during the school term.

Children and their carers share books, make fun stuff, play, dance and sing. Parents can receive information and support and share a cuppa and get to know other families. For more information about the Total Learning Centre (TLC) call or text Dani on 0437077689 or 50217476.

## WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROGRAM

Once again, Woolworths is offering schools this opportunity to earn extra resources through this program. Anyone from our School's community, staff, parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends who shop at Woolworths can collect stickers and **either pop them in the school's box in Woolworth's Langtree Avenue Store, or send them along to the school.**

# PRIMARY NEWS

## ROCKET LITERACY GROUP REPORT – T. Rivett

The Rocket Literacy Group have been learning how to write a Procedure Text.

They enjoyed writing a Procedure Text on 'How to make a Strawberry Smoothie'. They **really** enjoyed making the smoothie and consuming it.



## PREP MEDICAL CHECK FORMS – W. Finn

Next week, each prep will take home a Prep Medical Check Form in a large white envelope. Parents are asked to complete these forms and return them to the school as soon as possible. Denise, the School Nurse, will be visiting the school to assess each prep child's sight, hearing, etc. when all the forms have been returned.

## PREP PRACTICE UPDATE – W. Finn

Our next Prep Practice Day will be held on Wednesday, 23rd August from 9.00–11.30am. Our last two sessions have been a wonderful school experience for some very excited Kinder Kids. If anyone in our community knows of families with children eligible to enrol in prep next year, please let them know that they are very welcome to attend.

## STEM DAY – W. Finn

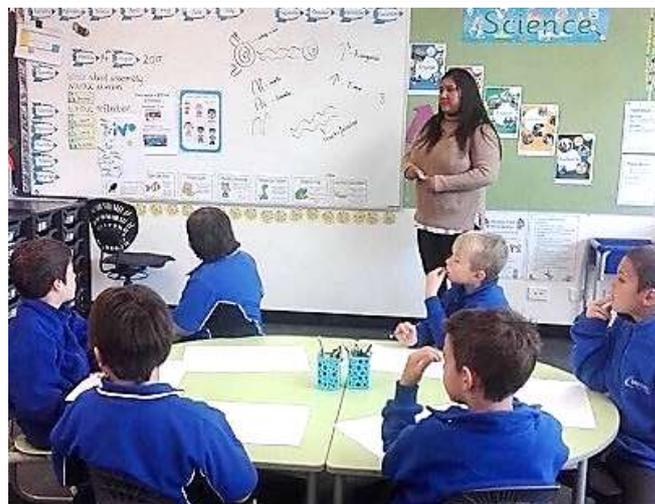
Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Each unit will be participating in STEM Day on Friday 1st September. All students will be involved in open-ended, challenging, cooperative activities based on their current Science theme. **A note requesting donations of recyclables to assist on the day has been sent home with the Grade P-4 students today.** We would encourage parents to come up to the school and see what the students have planned, purchased, created and presented prior to the end of STEM Day. More information to come.

## MERBEIN COMMUNITY BANK SCHOOL STUDENT BANKING PROGRAM

If you wish your child to participate in this program, please send your child's bankbook along to the Green Building Office every Thursday morning. The Bank will collect and process your child's banking and then drop the bank book back to school before the end of the school day.

## NAIDOC DAY REPORT – C. Piscitelli

A wonderful morning spent celebrating NAIDOC Day. Primary students spent their morning completing activities including dancing, outdoor games and Aboriginal painting and a special talk from Willie. Lots of fun was had by all!



### GRADE 5-6 CHINESE EXPERIENCE – S. Gardiner

Yesterday our visiting Chinese students gave our Grade 5-6 students a presentation that gave them an insight into different aspects of Chinese culture, which included foods, transport, school uniforms, festivals and National Days. Congratulations to the presenters on well prepared presentations and thank you for answering the MANY questions. The presentation was very informative and enabled our 'Aussie' kids to gain a clearer understanding of China and Chinese culture.



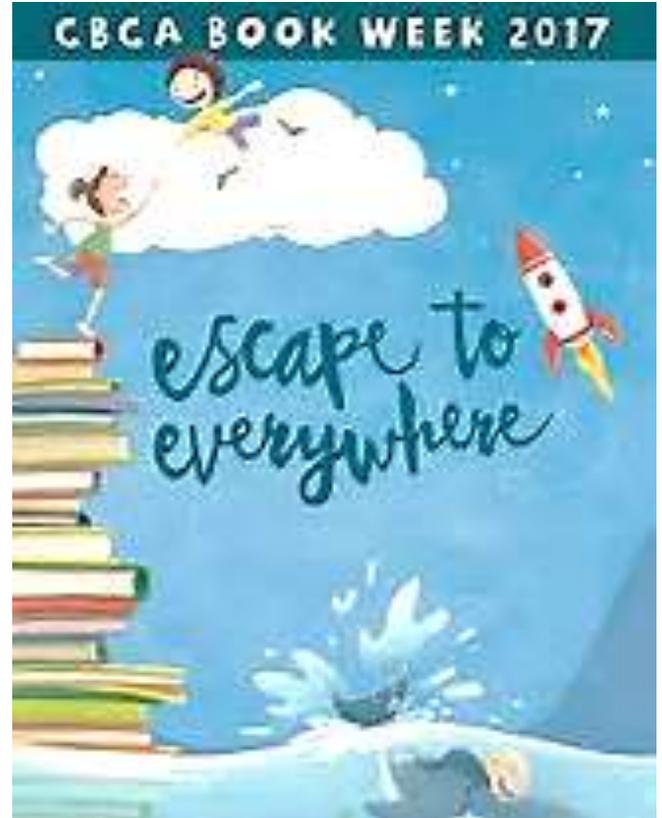
### GREEN BUILDING WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the students from the Green Building who received weekly awards at last week's assembly.



### BOOK WEEK – W. Finn

Our Book Week Activity Day will be held on Friday 25th August this year. The theme is "Escape to Everywhere". Students are invited to come to school dressed up as a book character. No fuss or stress for parents intended. There will be a parade in the gym to begin the day followed by fun book based activities in groups.



### GREEN BUILDING LOST PROPERTY CORNER

The lost property is continuing to mount up with unnamed articles. If your child is missing items, please drop in and check through the lost property. We also advise families to check that names are still clearly marked especially on school uniform items.

**Please note that at the end of the term, all unnamed items and clothing will be sent to the Salvation Army.**

### OPTIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS – J. Hudson

- **Guitar lessons**, both Group and Individual. For more information and cost, please email [iwansoebardi@gmail.com](mailto:iwansoebardi@gmail.com) or call Iwan Soebardi on 0418919220.
- **Drum lessons**. Contact Luke McCarthy for more information and costs on 0417 897 906 or email [lukemccarthy@lukemccarthy.id.au](mailto:lukemccarthy@lukemccarthy.id.au).
- **Piano or keyboard lessons**, the cost is \$27 per 30 minute lesson plus books as required. For further information, please contact Louise Judd by email at [louisejudd53@gmail.com](mailto:louisejudd53@gmail.com) or phone 0408596944.

### GRADE 5-6 LOST PROPERTY BOX

There is a Lost Property Box in the Orange Building and it is full of unnamed uniform jumpers. If your child is missing a jumper, please drop in and check the box out. **Please note that at the end of the term, all unnamed items and clothing will be sent to the Salvation Army.**

### AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM (OSHC)

Cheryll Hodge is our school's OSHC coordinator and can be contacted on 0428 258035 if you have any queries.

## SECONDARY NEWS

### YEAR 10 TRANSITION – C. Blackie

Yesterday our Year 10 students met with staff from Mildura Senior College for a chat about their initial subject selections. We encourage families to discuss this with their Year 10 child and to think about the advice given to them by the Mildura Senior College staff. Next week on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, the Mildura Senior College staff will again visit Merbein P10 to formally enter students' subject selections.

Year 10 students need to ensure that their enrolment forms, subject selection forms and forms for VET Subjects are returned no later than Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Please note that the choices students make in the coming week are not final but will help teachers at Merbein P-10 and the Mildura Senior College to ensure all students are on a pathway that maximises opportunities for their future.

### SECONDARY ENGLISH NEWS – L. McPhee

The school will be running a 'Book Swap' next week to celebrate National Book Week. Students, staff and parents can donate pre-loved books and place them on the cabinet in the corridor near the canteen. If you donate a book, please take a 'selfie' of yourself doing so and we will display it above the bookshelf. All students are welcome to take a book home to read during the week.

Year 7 students will be participating in a Book Week Activity Session next Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> August.

### LOST PROPERTY

The Secondary Lost Property is located in the Conference Room opposite the Main School Office. The jumpers and jackets are piling up, so please encourage your child to check the box out if they are missing any uniform items. **Please note that at the end of the term, all unnamed items and clothing will be sent to the Salvation Army.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ELECTRIC LIGHT THEATRE

This Variety Show teaches stagecraft skills to young people aged 8-25. There will be an information night for parents on 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm at the Mildura Primary School Gym, San Mateo Entrance. Auditions will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September from 1-4pm and 18<sup>th</sup> September from 6-9pm. For more information visit [www.eltmildura.com](http://www.eltmildura.com), or email [eltmildura@gmail.com](mailto:eltmildura@gmail.com)

### DASH FOR DEMENTIA

Walk together to raise awareness and support on Father's Day, 3rd September from 8-11am at Nowingi Place Mildura. Proceeds benefiting Alzheimer's Australia Fees on the day are \$25 adult \$15 child \$60 family. Supported by the Mildura Rural City Council. For more information, phone Leigh Barry 0400567780.

### RAISING HAPPY KIDS SESSION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Presented by Tim O'Leary, therapist, educator and author offering parenting tips and advice. Held 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Benetook Room at the Alfred Deakin Centre from 6.30-8.30pm. Cost \$15 per person. Book your ticket before 6<sup>th</sup> October at <https://raisinghappykids.eventbrite.com.au>

### MERBEIN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB – NET SET GO

A net set go program for 5- 7 and 8-10 9 year olds will be offered from Thursday 17 August 2017 at Mansell Reserve Mildura from 4.00 pm to 5pm . The program will run twice weekly Tuesdays and Thursdays. Online registration information to be provided shortly. Please contact Sue Mulder 0403 316 782 or email [pmulder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pmulder@bigpond.net.au) for further information.

## **CULTURE ART COMPETITION**

Lower Murray Water have announced that this competition is now open for entries. The competition offers an opportunity to share your story and cultural heritage through art, with a primary focus on the river and waterways. It hopes to promote the regions diverse culture and backgrounds.

Entry categories include all levels of primary schools, secondary colleges, tertiary institutes and students with a disability. There are great prizes to be won. Entry forms are available to download from [www.lmw.vic.gov.au](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au) Submissions close on 25th August. For further information, phone Leesha Merrett 0409930991.

## **ATHLETE PATHWAY TRAVEL GRANTS PROGRAM**

Applications for the first funding round of 2017-18 of the Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program are now open and close 11.59pm on Monday 28 August 2017. Guidelines for this program can be found at [www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/athlete-pathway-travel-grants-program](http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/athlete-pathway-travel-grants-program). It is recommended you read the program guidelines before applying as some changes have been made this year, specifically travel date eligibility.

The Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program provides grants to improve Victorian athlete development pathways from community to national representation level. Support is available to assist community sport and recreation athletes, coaches, officials and teams with the travel costs of participating in training and competition, and for high performance Victorian athletes and teams to compete at national championships or selection events.

Applications are to be made online at <http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/athlete-pathway-travel-grants-program> - go to sub heading Apply Now.

If you have any queries or require assistance you can ring the Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [grantsinfo@sport.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantsinfo@sport.vic.gov.au).

## **MILDURA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HEAT**

### **TRIVIA NIGHT**

Held 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Toyota Hothouse 50-52 Eighth Street Mildura. Live local entertainment, pre order platters available, BYO drinks and nibbles, bar also open. Start time of 7pm. Cost \$20 per head. Tables of 10. An over 18 event. For more information visit [www.mildurabasketballassociation.com.au](http://www.mildurabasketballassociation.com.au) or phone 50232241.

## **POSITIVE PARENTING TELEPHONE SERVICE INFORMATION**

This service is available to families across the whole of Victoria. The Positive Parenting Telephone Service run by Gateway Health provides a free telephone based Parent Education Program for parents and grandparents caring for their grandchildren and carers of children aged 2 to 10 years. Participants will be provided with a workbook and will be supported by weekly 30-minute phone calls from a trained Parent Educator over a 6 to 10 week period. This free service has daytime, evening and Saturday morning appointments available. Online modules are also available.

If you have any questions at all feel free to phone Andrea Slattery 1800 880 660.

## **MILDURA YOUTH SERVICES SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Enrolments for the September School Holiday Program are NOW OPEN.

The School Holiday Program offers a wide variety of fully supervised activities for young people aged 12 – 16 with free or discounted social, recreational and educational activities.

For more information go to the link below or call Youth Services on (03) 5018 8280.

Closing date for Enrolments is Friday 15 September at 5.00pm.

To stay up to date please follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/YouthServicesMildura](http://www.facebook.com/YouthServicesMildura)

## **MALLEE FAMILY CARE FOSTER CARERS NEEDED**

Foster Care is providing a Secure and Safe Home for children who cannot live at home for whatever reason. Do you have room for one more? Can you be a Foster Carer for a few nights, weeks or maybe years? For more information phone 5027 7600.

## **YOUR SPORT, OUR SPORT - FREE**

Mallee Sports Assembly are conducting a new sport program at the Community House, Buxton Sobee Park Basket Ball Court – Your Sport, Our Sport. Over the next few months, there will be a couple of different sports available for people to try. There is no cost to the community for these activities.

Basketball will be first activity. Mildura Basketball Association 'come and try' sessions and 'skill clinics' will run from Monday 28th August from 4-5pm, for four weeks. For more information and details please contact Jeannyfe Spary, East End Community House, phone: 5022 8497 or Tanya Wild, Mallee Sports Assembly phone: 5021 3464.

