



CHESSO NEWS

CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
KENWARD AVENUE
CHESTER HILL 2162

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MAY 2009

Principal's Report

NAPLAN: Thank you for your support in a smooth start to Term 2. Students in Years 7 and 9 have spent time this term preparing for the national literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. Every effort has been made to provide preparation and support for students to achieve their best possible results in the tests. Classes have been working on the 2008 papers to become familiar with the layout of the test and also working hard with their teachers to revise old skills and develop new ones. A big thank to all involved: staff, students and parents.

School Safety and Security: at the end of last term we had a serious incident at the end of the school day just outside the school, in which some of our students were injured, one seriously. This incident involved a group of intruders and one student of our school. A student and two others have been charged by the police. I would like to thank staff and students who supported us in bringing order and assisting the injured students on that day.

To give greater security to students and staff we have locked the vehicle gates during the day and hope to have electronic gates installed some time soon. The school has been working hard to get better security for

students and staff for some time so it is pleasing to be able to use federal funding for this purpose.

Mentoring Opportunities: our Year 9 mentoring program **LEAPS** is underway again this year and our Year 10 **iTrack** Program is also about to start. This year the **100 Faces** program will run again with Optus and this year we will be involving Year 9 and students from our Intensive English Centre (IEC). For the first time we are also involved in a mentoring program called **Links To Learning** which is run in partnership with the NSW Arab Council and the NSW Education Department to assist some of our Year 10 students.

Year 7 2010: the committee will be meeting next week to consider our Year 7 enrolments for next year. In Round 1 we have 65 applications from non-local students. Families will be informed about the outcome of these applications very soon but please be aware that we anticipate that the number of vacancies will be small.

Flag Day: is fast approaching. We are having our celebrations earlier this year to avoid clashes with Year 12 HSC Major Work deadlines. Performances will be on 2nd and 3rd of July. This year at our final performance we

will be fortunate to have Her Excellency the Governor **Marie Bashir** and her husband Sir **Nicholas Shehadie** with us. Everywhere I walk before or after school I hear music and see students practicing their items for Flag Day. Once again we will be having our “Big Day In” where we share our school values of safety, respect, learning and belong with our friends and colleagues in the community.

Mrs. Christine Casey

Bullying.....NO WAY!

One of the many issues that the Welfare Team of the school addresses is the issue of bullying in all its forms. Year group assemblies, Mind Matters workshops and units of work in several curriculum areas provide opportunities to educate our students about this issue. The Positive Behaviour For Learning strategy (PB4L) also focuses on students being *safe, respectful learners who belong at Cheso*.

Informing students about what constitutes bullying behaviour, how to respond to bullying behaviour, how to protect oneself from bullying behaviour and the effects of bullying on both the victim and the bully are covered at these times.

Students are given examples of bullying behaviour in all its forms, such as exclusion, verbal bullying, physical bullying and cyber bullying. They are asked to engage emotionally by putting themselves in the shoes of the victim. The significant role of the bystander is also discussed. Learning ways to resist bullies, without becoming one, is crucial. Discussing ways to react in a hypothetical situation strengthens students' ability to deal with potential bullying situations.

When bullying is reported, staff work with the students concerned to determine if it is an incidence of bullying or if it is a friendship issue. If bullying is confirmed, staff work with all students concerned to achieve the desired outcome: an immediate change in behaviour and awareness and understanding of the inappropriateness of the behaviour because it does not meet school expectations as defined in our Anti-Bullying Policy and the Students' Rights and Responsibilities document.

When working with the students it is important for one party involved to be strengthened and if necessary, given strategies to make them less vulnerable. The other party needs to be made aware of the real consequences that will follow their behaviour. The School Counsellors are vital to this situation and parents may also be involved in the process. Where it is evident that ongoing help will be necessary, outside support may be suggested.

Advances in technology have led to a change in the methods of the bully and have also changed the way we need to respond to bullying. It is difficult for adults to control the opportunities for cyber bullying, so teaching protective behaviours becomes even more important. During the year, a NSW Police Youth Liaison Officer will present a session to students on cyber bullying including cyber stalking and other cyber dangers. Immediate information can be found by going to <http://www.acma.gov.au> and following the links to Cyber Safety Advice for Parents and Carers.

Mrs. N. McNab

Deputy Principal
and the Anti-Bullying Team

ATTENDANCE NEWS

On the 1st April 2009, an *Attendance Blitz* was conducted at the school by the Home School Liaison Officer and the head Teacher Administration. The blitz focused on Lateness and Students in Yr 7 to 9 with **<85% Attendance**.

- The names of all students who were late on that day were recorded and interviewed.
- Parents of students not meeting 85% attendance were contacted by the Home School Liaison Officer.

Regular *Attendance Blitzes* will be conducted each term.

LATENESS

It is important for students to be at school before 8.45 am to attend roll call. Please encourage your child to be at school on time as persistent lateness disrupts learning time.

Where the student has a legitimate excuse for lateness to school a parental note outlining the reason is required. Unacceptable reasons for lateness include: "sleeping in, general traffic chaos, completing homework or being disorganised". Otherwise lateness to school is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Continual lateness will result in discipline action (letter home and detention).

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximize their potential. The award of the School and Higher School Certificate is dependent upon the student having satisfactory attendance. The Department of Education and Training has set this requirement as a minimum of 85% of the available school days.

- Sport and other exercise help the physical development of children. Sport is part of normal school activity which students must attend.
- Always try to make children's appointments with people like dentists or doctors before and after school and not during sport.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

- It is important to let the school know when your child will be away and why your child is absent.
- The parent or care giver should provide a written note addressed to the school explaining the child's absence (Please use the Chester Hill High School Attendance Form).

Mr. M. Milne

Head Teacher Administration

SMH Plain English Speaking Competition

On Wednesday 6th May 2009, Chester Hill High School hosted the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Competition. In the competition students from 16 years of age are asked to prepare an 8 minute speech on a topic from the media and then give a 3 minute impromptu speech on a topic given to them on the day with only three minutes preparation, this year's topic was "Privacy". We entered two students, **Shane Hughes** (Year 10) and **Ruth Curmi** (Year 12), both students performed exceptionally well on the day with **Ruth Curmi** being one of three students being invited to enter the next level of this competition to be held later in the year. The other two students were from Eagle Vale High School and Patrician Brothers in Fairfield. Well done and the best of luck in the next round.

Ms L. Criola

Physical Activity and Sport Studies

On Wednesday 6th May, 8 Year 10 Physical Activity and Sport Studies students had the chance to attend the Chester Hill North Primary School Cross Country carnival to work as officials. It was a practical experience that built upon our previously completed unit of work of carnival management. The students who attended the carnival were **Chonte Henderson, Kelly Teitge, Madison Laidlaw, Elie Antoun, Matthew Timson, Henry Tran, Bharat Sharma** and myself.

After leaving Cheso at the beginning of recess for the primary school, we waited to meet Ms. Davis-the event coordinator-who would give us our instructions for the day. Some of us also saw this as a great opportunity to introduce ourselves to some of the primary school kids.

Once at Pioneer Park, we worked out our shifts: the girls would have the role of marking the number of laps on the competitors' hands and handing them their place once they completed the course, whilst the boys were positioned at various checkpoints along the course. After our lunch break, we swapped shifts; the girls at checkpoints and the boys at the start/finish line. I must admit, I didn't like having been attacked by the mozzies whilst sitting at the checkpoint but on the up side, it was great to see so many students participate in the race even if they weren't in it to win it.

Overall, a great day was had by all. On behalf of the students who attended this day, we'd like to thank **Mr. Ryan** for organizing the event and Chester Hill North Primary School for allowing us to be a part of this worthwhile learning experience.

Christine Ma

School Athletics Carnival

The Chester Hill High School annual Athletics Carnival will be held on **Thursday 21st of May** at the **Crest Athletics Track** at Bass Hill. This is a whole school activity and students will be encouraged to participate in both track and field events.

Students are to wear school sports uniform and will be required to pay **\$2** entry on the day. Students can make their own way to catch a **bus** that will **leave** from **Miller Road** at **8.30am** and **return** at **3.15pm**. The bus will cost **\$4**.

This is a fun day and an opportunity for students to get points for their house groups and do their best. Canteen facilities will be available and students are reminded to hydrate and **slip, slop, slap**.

Please support the PDHPE staff in the organisation of this event.

Zone Cross-Country

The Zone Cross-Country Carnival will be held on **Tuesday 26th May 2009** (week 5). Those students who have nominated to compete at the carnival need to ensure they have returned their permission notes by **Friday 22nd May**.

The carnival will be held at **Flinders Slopes** on **Henry Lawson Drive**, from **11.30am** till **2pm**.

Zone Athletics

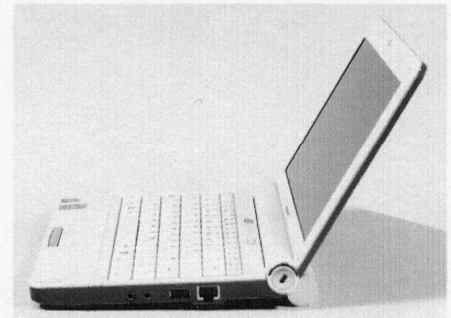
The Zone Athletics Carnival will be held on **Monday** and **Tuesday 15th and 16th June 2009** (week 8). **Monday** will be a full day from **8.30am** till **3pm** and **Tuesday** will run from **11am** till **2pm**.

The Carnival will be held at the **Crest Athletics Track, McLean St, Bass Hill**.
PD/H/PE Dept



Information for parents of students in Year 9

Laptops for learning



All Year 9 students in NSW government schools will receive a Lenovo laptop starting from August 2009. This has been funded by the National Secondary School's Computer Fund component of the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution.

All laptops will come with Microsoft and Adobe software, giving NSW students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll out of software in any education system worldwide. The Department of Education and Training is also investing in wireless networking and technical support for all secondary schools as well as professional learning for teachers.

Benefits

Laptops allow students to learn anytime, anywhere. The laptop weighs just over 1kg and fits easily into a school backpack.

Studies show the benefits of providing laptops to each student are:

- increased student motivation, engagement, interest,
- improved student organisation and improved self-directed learning,

- increased academic achievements and better work habits,
- improved communication and information skills.

Requirements

- Parents/carers and students will be required to sign a Laptop User Charter prior to issue of the laptop.
- To increase security, students will be asked to keep their laptops out of sight when travelling to and from school.
- The laptop can be used for school work at home – with or without internet access.
- Students will be able to access the Internet at home if there is Internet service at home. The Department's Internet filtering will work at home so students will not have access to inappropriate content.

- Students must charge their laptop overnight to ensure it is ready for each school day.
- Year 9 students may keep the laptop if they complete Year 12. Students who leave school or move out of the government school system must return their laptops.

Further information

Your school will provide information regarding requirements, ownership, damage or loss of laptops, laptop care and acceptable computer and internet use when the laptops are provided. The school can also provide advice on the best academic use of the laptop, safe internet use, copyright, plagiarism and ergonomics.

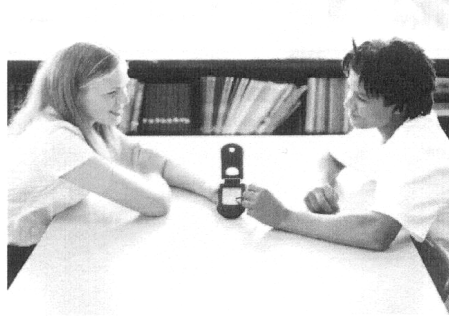
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NSW Department of Education & Training

NEW SOUTH WALES
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



SAFE SEXTING: No such thing



Parents are urged to warn children about the dangers of 'sexting' – the growing trend for young people to send provocative images of themselves to their friends via mobile phones.

Once photos are sent, it is an almost instant push of the button to forward them or load them onto the internet. These pictures then become part of a young person's 'digital footprint', lasting forever and potentially damaging future career prospects or relationships.

Images sent by mobile phone can easily fall into the wrong hands, and once they are in cyberspace it is impossible to remove them or control who sees them.

More and more young people seem to be distributing highly suggestive or even sexually explicit photos of themselves to their friends, often without a real understanding of the consequences.

The easy availability of new technologies and social networking sites can turn what can seem an innocent joke or flirtatious fun into a potentially devastating experience – with young girls most at risk.

Sexting can lead to public humiliation, cyberbullying, or even sexual assault.

The message to young people is – don't post images of yourself and don't distribute any sent to you.

It is illegal to take sexual photos of children and young people and it is also an offence to pass them on.

Parents are encouraged to get advice on sexting through the 24-hr parenting advice line, Parent Line 1300 1300 52. The line is staffed by highly trained and experienced counsellors.

Parents can learn about how technology is used in their child's life by visiting the Education Department's website www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/technology/index.php.

For more advice on parenting and sexting, visit the Department of Community Services website www.community.nsw.gov.au.

Tips for parents

- Warn your children about the consequences of sexting.
- Remind children to think before they act.
- Tell children that sending or possessing child pornography is illegal.
- Warn them about sexual predators.
- Parents should learn how to use and monitor their children's mobile phones.
- Parents should check photo galleries on their children's Facebook and MySpace accounts.
- Give your children clear rules on what they can and can't do with their mobile phone.



New South Wales Government

A Scientific Day of Physical Fun!

On 30th April, students of Year 12 physics took a trip to Canberra to go to Questacon, Australia's national science and technology centre under the careful care of **Mr DeMartin**. Students from Years 11 and 12 of Modern History also attended the Australian War Memorial on the same day, led by **Ms Criola** and **Mrs Fields**.

At Questacon, physics students were required to complete assignments worth a *quarter* of their final internal assessment grade for the HSC by participating in, and researching, fun exhibits such as the Virtual Roller Coaster and the Free Fall (which I did three times in a row, once to help **Mr DeMartin** up there!).

We also attended a brief lecture about **Nikola Tesla**, the man who invented many weird and wacky inventions such as the AC motor and the remote control. In summary, he was a very intelligent man with a strange mind that was ripped off for around the current equivalent of **\$1,000,000** after helping **Thomas Edison**, creator of the light bulb, improve the DC electric generator. Yes, **Thomas Edison** was a backstabber. He then paired up with a man named **George Westinghouse**, who paid **Tesla** a lot of money to create an excellent AC generator. He did, and both of them shoved **Edison** out of the power-supply game because of how much more efficient the power transfer of AC currents are. **Tesla** died in 1943, and all of his later plans (which some rumour to include a plan of free electricity safely transmitted through the air around the world and the model of a death ray) were stolen by the American government.

It was a great experience to have, especially waking up at 4.00am, leaving at 6.30am and arriving at Cheso High at 7.00pm, but the stop offs at McDonalds both ways got our energy levels up a bit, and we all learned tons of things, as well as do a bit of physics revision.

Written by **Charles Tweedie**



CAREERS NEWS

Hospitality Day at MEGT

MEGT invites Year 10-12 students and their parents to experience a range of career opportunities within the hospitality industry during the MEGT Hospitality Industry day.

When and where: **Friday 20th November 2009** at MEGT Institute, East Sydney.

On the day you will:

- Take part in coffee making and mock-tail making.
- Experience bar flaring demonstrations.
- Visit a well known hotel.
- Talk to industry experts from chefs to Hotel Managers.
- Learn about pathways within hospitality and university articulation.
- Learn about international opportunities within the Hospitality Industry.
- Case studies of MEGT graduates and other Hospitality case studies.
- Interview and resume tips to secure work in hospitality.
- Learn how we assist you to find casual hospitality work whilst you study.
- Participate in hands on hospitality work shops.

To register contact **Tania Menzies 93588897** or email tania.menzies@megt.com.au
Expressions of interest close **August 3rd 2009**

Accounting Cadetships

KPMG are offering accountancy cadetships to school leavers. Applications are now being accepted online and will close on **8th July 2009**.

Chartered Accountants Information Evening

This will be held in the city on **21st May**. See the Careers Adviser for a pamphlet.

JMC open day will be on **23rd May**.

UNSW science information evening will be held on **28th May**.

Sydney university will be holding parent and student information evenings on **1st, 4th and 9th June**. Register at www.usyd.edu.au/year_10_evening

See the Careers Adviser if you are interested in maritime or medical careers.

SRC Report



Bandaged Bear Day

On the 24th, 25th and 26th March, the SRC successfully fundraised for Bandaged Bear Day. We were able to raise **\$512**. this money will be going to Westmead Children's Hospital to help pay for necessary equipment

and help sick children. The SRC would like to thank all who supported this very important cause.

Easter Fundraiser

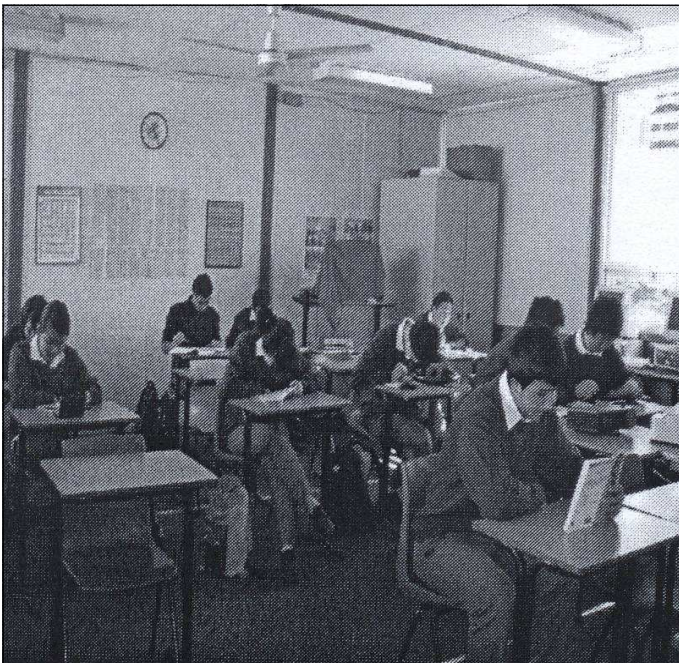
In celebration of Easter, the SRC held a "Hot Cross Bun" fundraiser. From this day we managed to raise **\$180** which is a great effort. This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the students and staff. Thank you to everyone who purchased a hot cross bun on the day.



Reading Programme and Remedial Reading at the IEC

This term we have launched a “drop everything and read” programme for the whole IEC. Every day after recess, all students read a prescribed book for twenty minutes, talk about what they have read for ten to fifteen minutes and finally do a writing activity about the book. It is wonderful to see everyone involved in sustained reading-even the teacher. There has been positive feedback from the teachers and the students.

A remedial reading programme is also well under way with identified struggling readers being withdrawn for reading help. It is heart warming to see the enthusiasm and gratitude of these students when they receive this help.



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A public seminar aimed at understanding the unique health and wellbeing challenges facing generations Y & Z — and how these challenges can be met.

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SATURDAY MAY 23, 6-10PM CLANCY AUDITORIUM, UNSW. FREE PARKING

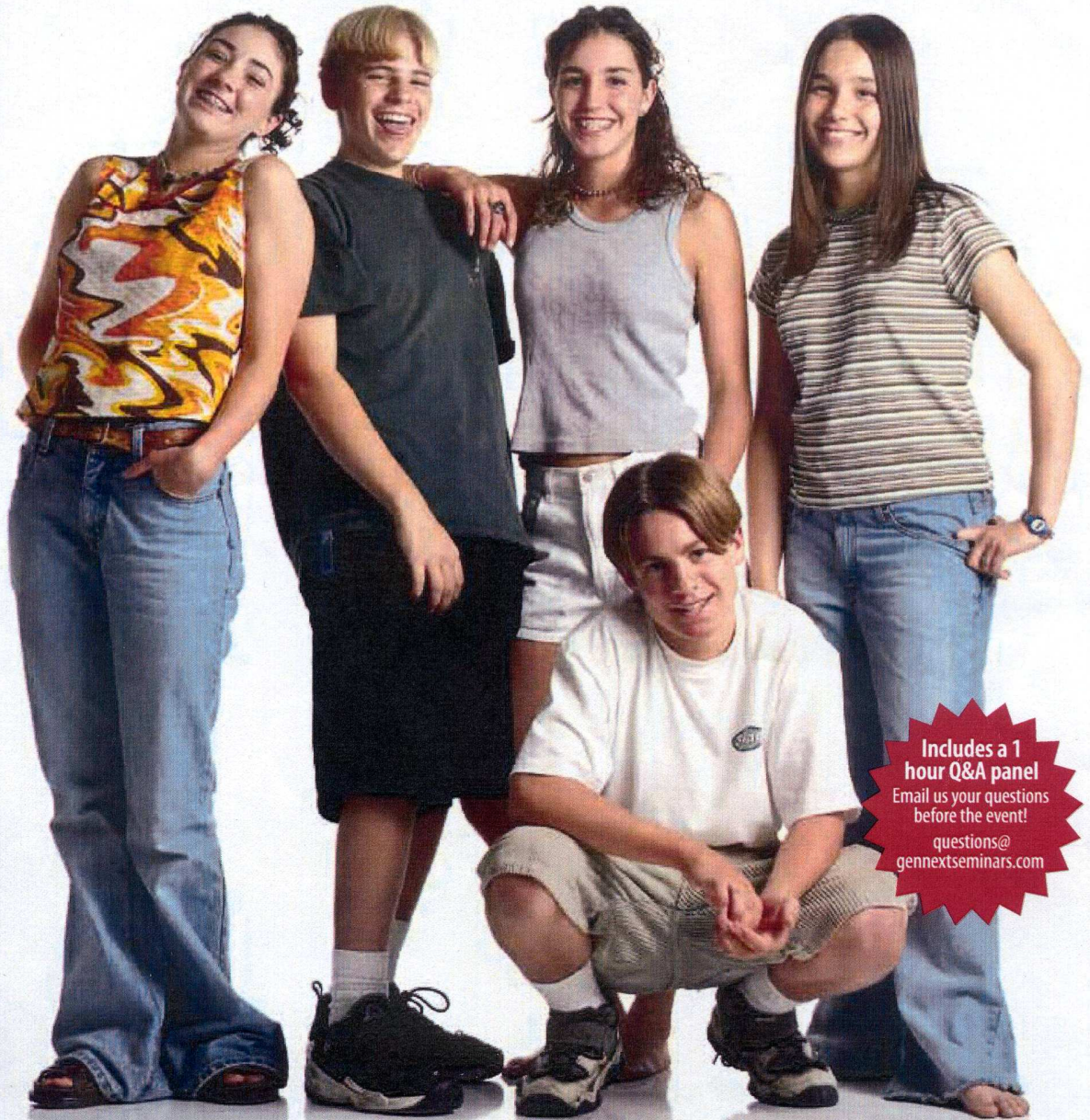
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17 April, 2009

**Australian Red Cross**
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

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Chester Hill High School
16 Kenward Ave
CHESTER HILL NSW 2162

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous and compassionate support for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009. Funds raised will be used to provide assistance to individuals and communities in towns and suburbs affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. An independent panel made up of community leaders, chaired by Mr John Landy AC MBE, will oversee the Appeal Fund's operation. The Victorian Government will manage distribution of the funds.

Red Cross will not deduct any costs from public donations to cover Appeal costs. All interest earned on donations will be invested back into the Appeal. Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet these needs, any excess funds will be used to assist in future disasters in Victoria.

While those helped by your generosity will not be able to thank you in person, please accept our thanks on their behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Tickner
CEO**Received with thanks**OFFICIAL RECEIPT
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