Cheery ‘Hello’s’ to all. At last, the coldest Victorian winter in 26 years has finally said goodbye and quietly crept away, ashamed of his ghastly greyness, as well as his short, cold, wet and windy days and, as for his freezing mornings: BOO! Hooray that he won’t return for nine whole months, yippee, skippee!

Now, beautiful Spring has arrived, with her blossoms, buds and thoughts of ‘Springy’ things. Perhaps a good old IOE Spring Clean is in the air!

Despite the cold, I would also like to make mention of the joy we have had over these cold months, when staff members have proudly brought in their divinely beautiful new babies for us to coo over.

We wish all these families the very best with these little bubs, especially the best of health for them all.

AND PS:

I think it would be a wonderful idea if the next IOE BBQ was held on a Monday or Tuesday, when I am here. How I love a sausage sizzle! (Just saying, Marcelo!)

Kindest regards, Toni
MOOROOLBARK MINIATURE RAILWAY

**Why?** For the simple pleasure of riding a miniature train in a lovely garden setting

**When:** Fourth Sunday of every month (except December)  
**Phone:** (03) 9723 1025

**Website:** mmr.org.au/wordpress

**Where:** Kiloran Reserve, Hawthory Road, Mooroolbark, Victoria, 3138

CONCORDIA, MANDOLIN & GUITAR ORCHESTRA CONCERT

**When:** Sunday 6 September at 2.30pm  
**Website:** concordiamandolins.org.au

**Where:** St Johns Southgate, 20 City Road, Southbank

**Cost:** $25, $20 pre-purchased, Children under 12 free

BATTLEFIELD BLUES – SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

**** Presented in the style of ‘Monty Python’, with a twist of ‘Horrible Histories’

**When:** 22- 26 September 29 September- 3 October

**Website:** www.facebook.com/battlefieldblues

FAMILY DAY TRIPS

- MORNINGTON  (Pop in to see Jess and Bonnie!)
- MACKENZIE RESERVE: YARRA GLEN
- WALHALLA RAILWAY
- SORRENTO – QUEENSCLIFFE FERRY
- PHILIP ISLAND
- BOLLYGUM PARK: KING LAKE
TEN STAGGERINGLY BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TO VISIT

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Sth Yarra
- Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn
- Williamstown Botanic Gardens
- Alfred Nicholas Memorial Gardens, Sherbrooke
- National Rhododendran Gardens, Olinda
- Cloudehill Gardens, Olinda
- Australia Garden & Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne
- Werribee Park Gardens & The Victoria State Rose Garden, Werribee
- Karwarra Australian Native Plant Garden, Kalorama
- Alowyn Gardens, Yarra Glen

Why? Because these gardens are too remarkable, too amazing, too beautiful to be left unseen

When: Anytime, Website: Follow the visitor information link with each garden.

Where: Greater Melbourne

Cost: All but 2 of the 10 gardens have free entry. Follow the individual links for details.

SPECIAL EVENT? NOT AS PRICEY AS GOLD CLASS!

Why? The latest cinema experience

When: See website for sessions

Phone: Bookings online


Where: Village Cinemas Jam Factory

Cost: Ticket prices from $23.

SILHOUETTE PHOTOGRAPHY – TEACH THE KIDS

Why? A great way to learn about light, dark and contrast.

When: Sunset

Where: Anywhere you can watch the sunset

Cost: Free
WHAT’S HAPPENING

ArtPlay
Birrarung Marr, Batman Avenue, Melbourne
ArtPlay is a creative arts studio for children aged two to 12 and their families. You can find it behind Federation Square, next to the Yarra River.

Cooks’ Cottage
Fitzroy Gardens
Wellington Parade, East Melbourne
A visit to the historic landmark Cooks’ Cottage, situated in the beautiful heritage-listed Fitzroy Gardens, is a must when exploring Melbourne. Built in 1755, Cooks’ Cottage is the oldest building in Australia and a popular Melbourne tourist attraction.

Escape Hunt Melbourne
Shop 3, Ground, 190 Queen Street, Melbourne
The Escape Hunt experience is a unique adventure based on classic ‘escape the room’ online games.

Escape Room
Suite 9-10, Level 1, 108 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Escape Room Australia is a simulation game where participants are locked in a themed room with various scenarios and puzzles they have to solve. Using the elements found inside, players need to try escape within 45 minutes.

**Eureka Skydeck 88**

**Level 88, 7 Riverside Quay, Southbank**
Eureka is perfectly positioned for a complete 360 degree, floor-to-ceiling views encompassing Melbourne’s CBD, sports precinct, Docklands and everything in between.

**Family Fun Centres Black Light Mini Golf**

**Harbour Town**
UV lighting has transformed good old-fashioned mini golf into an amazing glow-in-the-dark-experience that’s fun for all the family at Docklands. The first of its kind in Australia, Glow Golf features 18 holes of fun, in air-conditioned, indoor comfort.

**Flight Experience Australia**

**QV Retail**
Prepare for take-off as you sit in the pilot’s seat of a Boeing 737 jet airliner and take charge of the controls at Flight Experience Australia.

**Golftec Australia**

**Gnd & Mezz, 136 Exhibition Street, Melbourne**
Golftec is the largest indoor golf simulator center in the southern hemisphere.

**Hardrock Climbing**

**501 Swanston Street, Melbourne**
For the ultimate climbing experience, get along to Hardrock in the city centre. Hire a harness and climbing shoes, and enjoy a day's unlimited climbing.
Kensington Community Recreation Centre
Kensington Community Centre, 111 Altona Street, Kensington
The Kensington Community Recreation Centre provides recreational, educational, social and cultural facilities for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Kingpin Bowling Crown
Crown Entertainment complex, 8 Whitman Street, Southbank
Kingpin Bowling is a great party venue and is centrally located in the heart of the Crown Entertainment complex. It boasts 15 state of the art bowling lanes, indoor laser skirmish, arcade games, 3 fully licensed bars and great private function spaces.

Lego Education Centre
Shop 5G 439 Docklands Drive, Docklands
The Lego Education Centre let you explore building and structures, mechanisms, renewable energy, robotics and movie making. Open for workshops, school holiday programs and birthday parties.

M9 Laser Skirmish
Shop 120, Ground, 27 Whiteman Street, Southbank
Armed with a laser gun and combat vest, pit your wits against your opponents in this action-packed indoor adventure game at Crown Entertainment Complex.

Medibank Icehouse
105 Pearl River Road, Docklands
With two Olympic-sized ice rinks, Medibank Icehouse is Australia's largest ice sports and entertainment venue. Never skated? Take a free ice-skating lesson.

Melbourne Aquarium
Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, King Street, Melbourne
The stunning Croc Lair exhibit is just one of the zones of discovery at Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium. Marvel at the world’s only display of Elephant Sharks in Bay of Rays.
Melbourne Museum

11 Nicholson Street, Carlton
From the natural environment to culture and history, Melbourne Museum explores life in Victoria. The museum includes a special gallery just for children.

Melbourne Star Observation Wheel

101 Waterfront Way, Docklands
Melbourne Star is Australia's only giant observation wheel. Take a flight of discovery through the Melbourne skies and see the city from a different perspective.

Melbourne Zoo

Elliott Avenue, Parkville
Over 250 species from around the world can be found in the beautifully landscaped settings of Melbourne Zoo, just five minutes from the city centre.

Motionators

Shop 2G 439 Docklands Drive, Docklands
Motionators is as close as you can get to the full motion F1 simulators the professional drivers use. These simulators are so real that you feel your pulse rise as the motion kicks in. There's something to suit individuals, groups and gift buyers alike.

National Sports Museum

Melbourne Cricket Ground, Gate 3, Jolimont
Housed by the iconic MCG, the National Sports Museum celebrates Australia's rich sporting history by boasting the largest sporting collection in the country.
Old Melbourne Gaol Crime & Justice Experience
Old Melbourne Gaol, 377 Russell Street, Melbourne
Visit Melbourne’s oldest prison, where most of Australia’s infamous characters, including bushranger Ned Kelly and gangster Squizzy Taylor, spent time. Enter the original gaol to see the execution area and Ned Kelly’s death mask.

Orz Escape
Level 3 180 Bourke Street, Melbourne
This is a real life game experience, which focus on team building, effective communication, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

Riverslide Skate Park
Residence Alexandra Gardens, Alexandra Avenue, Melbourne
Right in the heart of Melbourne, Riverslide is the inner-city’s biggest skate park, designed in consultation with skaters and with a street-skating focus.

Signal
Northbank
Flinders Walk, Melbourne
Signal is a creative arts studio for young people 13 to 25. At Signal, you work alongside professional artists in a collaborative way.

Strike Bowling
QV Retail
Not all bowling alleys come equipped with a cocktail bar and gourmet kitchen, but Strike QV does. It also has 12 lanes and three private bowling areas.

Strike Escape Rooms
Melbourne Central
Are you tired of daily boring busy schedules? Are you looking for another world where everything is very different from the real one? You might be looking for the parallel reality. Thus, escape room in Melbourne is the right game for you.

Strike Melbourne Central
Melbourne Central
Strike Melbourne Central has 10 bowling lanes, a bar, great music, gourmet kitchen and laser tag arena, plus pool tables. To add to the bowling fun, laser tag has you blasting it out in an urban skirmish in a mocked-up Melbourne Central Station.

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### Exhibitions for kids

**Spring Play Out**

*26 Sep 2015, Royal Botanic Gardens*

Play, explore, create and plant on this fun morning in The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden.

**Starry Southern Skies**

*24 Sep 2015 - 1 Oct 2015, Royal Botanic Gardens*

View the night sky using powerful heritage telescopes and get the chance to view clusters and double stars or explore the Moon.

**Amazing Alfred and His Bear**

*16 Sep 2015 - 26 Sep 2015, Scratch Warehouse*

Come on a physical and musical journey as the blind ringmaster presents his grand circus, solely held together by his trusty sidekick.

**Circus Skate-a-Rama at Medibank Icehouse**

*18 Sep 2015 - 3 Oct 2015, Medibank Icehouse*

Enter the big top at Medibank Icehouse these school holidays, when the rink transforms into a spectacular circus themed skate-a-rama.

**Nickelodeon's Slimefest**

*27 Sep 2015, Melbourne State Netball & Hockey Centre*

Slimefest is a family-friendly music festival featuring live DJs and performances by local and international artists, including Boyce Avenue.
The wonderful Bayswater CFA is planning all sorts of activities, information and fun, when they partner us at the upcoming, fabulous ‘Bayswater Community Arts Festival’, 10-2pm and open up their Station on Saturday October 10. People of all ages will love this.

This is all sited within their premises on Scoresby Rd, BAYSWATER. (Next to the Arts Centre) and will be up and running between 10am – 2pm. All welcome.

They’re having:

- **THE SMOKE HOUSE!**  This is the CFA’s way of teaching children to ‘Down low and go, go, go, to escape from a burning building.

- **‘HOT PROPS EXHIBITION’!**  This consists of setting fire to objects made of different materials and showing how they are extinguished. (This is a very popular activity and draws plenty of people)

- **SAUSAGE SIZZLE!**  Yum Yum, who doesn’t love a snag?

- **BADGE MAKING!**

- **HOPING CAPTAIN KOALA WILL POP IN (Um, not yet guaranteed!)**

- **HAVE A PHOTO TAKEN WITH A ‘FABULOUS FIREPERSON’**

- **FIRE STATION TOURS:**  Check out how the Fire Station works

- **FIRE TRUCKS:**  Check them out, Brussel Sprout, they’re awesome

NB: Within the past few days, the hard working crews have been given the brilliant news that a new Fire Station, that they so desperately need, is going to be built over 2016 – 17, congratulations to them all.

I’ll let everyone know when the activities have been locked in and what their scheduled time is. Really hope to see you there.
TESSELAAR TULIP FESTIVAL

Why? To celebrate Spring with a floral and cultural festival.

When: 10am - 5pm daily.
Phone: 03 9737 7722
Website: tulipfestival.com.au
Where: The Tulip Farm, 357 Monbulk Rd, Silvan, Victoria
Cost: Adults $24, Concession $20, Kids under 16 Free.

RANIDY WRITES A NOVEL

Why? Come to the launch of this beautiful picture book!

When: 2pm on the 5th September
Phone: 03 9387 9837
Website: www.littlebookroom.com.au
Where: 759 Nicholson Street, Carlton North 3054
Cost: Free

THE SNOW QUEEN’S AUSSIE FREEZING SHOW

Why? Dollops of frosty fun and falling snow

When: 24/9/2015 - 1/10/2015
Phone: (02) 4626 7777
Website: www.youngstars2.com
Where: Various venues around Victoria
Cost: $16 - $22
ART AUCTION FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Why? Enjoy great food & cocktails, and perhaps come home with a wonderful artwork.
When: From 6.30pm on Monday 7th September
Phone: (03) 9272 5699
Website: www.ausimed.org/catalogue
Where: Mossgreen, 926-930 High Street, Armadale
Cost: $120 (includes cocktail party and auction catalogue)

THE ANNUAL ‘WALK FOR PREMMIES’

When: Sunday 25 October 2015
Website: www.walkforprems.org.au
Where: Albert Park Lake, Albert Park
Cost: Adult $40, Child $20 (Early bird until 1/09 then Adult $35 & Child $15)

FIVE FUN FAMILY EVENTS: FATHER’S DAY

1 Luna Park - Dad’s Freebies
2 Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium Father's Day Breakfast
3 Father's Day Breakfast at Melbourne Zoo
4 Mornington Railway Train Rides
5 Collingwood Children's Farm Family Day
STROLL IN SEPTEMBER. AKA: THE ‘BLOODY LONG WALK’

**Why?** Spend a day enjoying great river and coastal views, improving your own fitness and benefiting others.

**When:** Sunday 6 September 2015

**Website:** www.bloodylongwalk.com.au/melbourne

**Where:** Abbotsford to Brighton

**Cost:** Super Early Bird Fee $88 (Save $22)

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Why? You'll be in awe of their skill and mesmerised by their exquisite sound

**When:** 4th September 2015

**Website:** www.worldvisionpresents.com

**Where:** Hamer Hall, Melbourne

**Cost:** Special offer tickets start at $47
LABORASTORY

When: Wednesday 19 August, 7pm  
Website: stmichaels.org.au/event/the-laborastory  
Where: St Michael's on Collins  
Cost: $20 full, $15 concession

BENALLA AVIATION MUSEUM

Attractions include a unique collection of military training aircraft, a number of which are fully operational and available for passenger flights, and many related static displays.

Located in an historic Bellman Hangar at Benalla Airport, just two hours from Melbourne on the Hume Freeway, visitors to the museum are welcomed by one of our knowledgeable volunteers, who will provide a personalised tour of the facility, answering any questions you may have.

The museum is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and other times can be arranged for groups by phoning 0429 629 415
What if you could escape the chaos of a busy, scheduled life to the quiet of Nothing? After his teacher mentions the universe is growing, Simon Ives becomes obsessed with the idea of discovering this Edge - the place between nothing and everything, where he can just be. Simon dreams of going to a place where no one needs him to do anything.

Meanwhile, at the Edge of Everything is a boy who longs for someone to need him to do something. He’s filling his time and space with things like galaxy-spanning train sets and ten-million-piece-puzzles. He seems to have done everything, and even redoes everything, but longs for company.

On Earth, Simon’s well-meaning parents build a mock space capsule from an old meditation tank to simulate the adventure Simon seems to crave. Rather than being backyard fun, however, the space capsule actually lifts off, fuelled by the accidental igniting of an extraordinary amount of fireworks. The explosion launches Simon deep into space. There, far from planet Earth, Simon and the Boy at the Edge Everything meet and compare their very different lives. What will happen from here, neither knows.
Explore the inner sanctum of the MCG, walk on the hallowed arena and experience where legends play by taking a guided MCG tour!

Highlights of this must-see tour include:

- The famous MCC Long Room
- MCC Library (founded in 1873)
- MCG Tapestry
- Player change rooms
- Cricketers’ viewing room
- Ron Casey Media Centre
- Portrait of Sir Donald Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar
- A walk on the arena
- Cricket Victoria Bill Lawry Centre
- Ponsford Stand
- City Terrace with view’s of Melbourne’s skyline.

**Note:** some areas on the tour route are subject to availability and alteration.

**FREE WALKING TOURS OF MELBOURNE**

2½ – 3 hours, 10:30am and 2:30pm

Every Day: From the statue of Sir Redmond Barry in front of the State Library of Victoria.

Federation Square, Melbourne’s Laneways, Street Art, Flinders St Station, Yarra River, Eureka Tower, Hidden bar scene, Centre Place, Melbourne’s Coffee Culture, Block Arcade, Chinatown, Princess Theatre, Melbourne’s Arcades, State Parliament of Victoria, Bourke St Shopping Mall, Old Melbourne Gaol, State Library of Victoria, Royal Exhibition Centre, Carlton Gardens, Free things to do and transport. ... and much more!

**EASTERN REGIONAL LIBRARIES**

[www.erl.org.au](http://www.erl.org.au) EVENTS CALENDAR, SEPTEMBER
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS @ THE MUSEUM

Discovery Centre
Browse our extensive range of resources, including topical websites and infosheets based on Museum Victoria’s collections and research.

- Insects
- Spiders & Scorpions
- Other bugs
- Marine Life
- Freshwater Life

- Frogs & Reptiles
- Birds & Mammals
- Dinosaurs & Fossils
- Plants
- Genetics

- Rocks & Minerals
- Meteors & Meteorites

- Dinosaurs & Fossils

- Sky Watching
- Sun & Moon
- The Solar System

- Beyond the Solar System
- Meteors & Meteorites

- Indigenous Australia
The Pacific

Victorian Icons
Social History
Transport
Primary Industries

Communications & Technology
Coins & Medals

Immigration History
Immigrant Communities

Family History Research
Personal Stories

Collection Care & Preparation
Museum Research
History & Technology Collections

Indigenous Cultures Collections
Science Collections

Mineralogy and Petrology
Palaeontology
Marine Sciences
Terrestrial Environments

MUSEUM: PANDAS IN 3D
PLANNING A CRUISE?

THE OCEAN & RIVER CRUISE EXPO
MELB CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
SAT, 5 SEPTEMBER: 10 – 5PM.

TRAVEL ON ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP 10 TRAM RIDES

Number 96 tram from Melbourne’s CBD (Bourke Street/Spencer St) to St Kilda

Past the 8th Melb market, MSAC, Fitzroy St, The Esplanade, St Kilda Sea Baths, Luna Park, St Kilda Beach and Acland Street.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

Tired? Feel free to lay down on the soft carpet in the GREAT HALL & gaze at the amazing ceiling.

Artist Leonard French was the man who took 5 years to design, create and shape the stunning ceiling, which has enthralled people from the 1960’s.

SOUNDING THE CITY BELLS – GOG & MAGOG

People have been gazing @ Gog & Magog since 1892. They’re sited in the beautiful, heritage listed, Royal Arcade.

You can also check out it’s old style charm, glass ceilings, beautiful boutiques, including Spellbox, chocolate shops and all sorts of treasures.

Well, that’s a lot for everyone to look at!

Kindest regards

Toni