



A New Year

Lord, we welcome you into our lives at the start of another year.

*We welcome your Holy Spirit to be our constant companion,
our guide, our wisdom and our strength.*

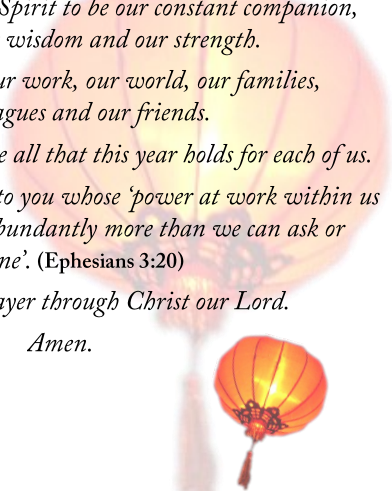
*We entrust to you our work, our world, our families,
our colleagues and our friends.*

Open our hearts to receive all that this year holds for each of us.

*We give praise and glory to you whose 'power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or
imagine'. (Ephesians 3:20)*

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



From the Principal . . .

Welcome

I wish students, staff and families a very warm welcome to the 2015 school year. I trust that you've had an enjoyable break, and that you're looking forward with anticipation to all that this year will bring.

We've had an excellent start. There's been lots of excitement as students catch up after the break, meet new teachers and once again settle into the patterns of school and study. It is great to see that everyone is positive and ready to do their best this year.

Thank you to families

A very big thank you to all families for all you've done in the background to ensure a smooth start to the year. It's a busy time as you sort through booklists, buy and label uniforms and once again establish the routines of the school term, especially after the more relaxed life of the holidays. All this takes planning, energy and patience. Thank you.

The importance of good routines, adequate sleep, eating well and having all the materials needed for school should never be underestimated.

New families

On behalf of the school community I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the students and families who have

joined our school community this year, particularly our Year 7 students.

The start of secondary school is an important milestone; something that students look forward to with great anticipation and excitement. I hope that your start has been a smooth one, that you already feel 'at home' and that your time with us is enriching and fulfilling.

We look forward to meeting Year 7 families at the Family Nights which take place in a few weeks.

As well as the new students at Year 7 we also have 11 students joining us at Years 8, 9 and 10. These students and their families come from diverse places: overseas, interstate, other areas of Melbourne and neighbouring schools. You are indeed very welcome.

New Staff

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Belinda Moss, Giselle Grant, Rachel Plunkett, Mitchell Porter, Katherine Tohme and Robert Raymond to our staff.

Belinda Moss: Physical Education and Health, Year 9 Pastoral Care, PEH Learning Area Leader.

Giselle Grant: Learning Support Leader, Year 8 English and Pastoral Care teacher.

Robert Raymond: Music teacher replacing Michelle Farrugia who is on leave during Term 1.

Rachel Plunkett: Learning Support Officer

Mitchell Porter: Learning Support Officer

Katherine Tohme: Learning Support Officer

Each brings a wealth of experience, many gifts, fresh ideas and a strong commitment to learning and our students. I wish them every blessing as they join our school community.

Opening Mass

Our opening mass will be held on **Thursday 19th February at 9.30am** at Sacred Heart Church. At the end of the mass we will induct our 2015 School Leaders. I'd like to invite all families to join us if you have the time.

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday 18th February is Ash Wednesday. We encourage all students and their families to begin the Lenten season by joining us at 8.30am at Sacred Heart Church or by attending mass in their own community on this day. Mass

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times for the different parishes have been included at the end of the newsletter.

It is sometimes thought that the name of Lent comes from the Latin expression for slowing down, 'festina lente', meaning to 'hasten slowly'. Actually, hastening slowly is not a bad way to describe what Christians try to do during Lent. The season of Lent is a time where we try to live more simply; focusing less on ourselves and more on others, sharing what we have and making more time for God in our lives.

While we were on holidays.....

For most of us January was a time to kick back and to enjoy a break. However, during this time our cleaning and maintenance staff, and a host of contractors were very busy getting the school ready for the 2015 school year.

The major project was the refurbishment of the main school toilets. This project was the result of extensive lobbying from the SRC and was designed with considerable input from students.

As well as this new split system air conditioning has been installed in Rooms 9 – 17. I am sure this will be very much appreciated as we face the hot days of February.

I thank all who were involved in the process and am sure that students and their families really appreciate the work you've done on their behalf.

Our best thanks will be to take good care of the facilities.

Year 10 2012

Last week the Year 10 2012 students joined staff for morning tea. It was great to see them again, to reminisce about their time at St Albans and to celebrate what they've achieved over the last two years. All have done really well and are looking forward to their tertiary studies or entering some form of training and the workforce.

Contact with the School

At different times during the year families may wish to chat with staff regarding their child. This may be to raise a concern, to share information that might assist teachers or simply to share a 'good news story' about your child. We encourage you to do this.

The initial contact for pastoral matters is always the Pastoral Care teacher, then the Year Level Leader. For learning matters it is the subject teacher and/or pastoral care teacher. The names of Pastoral Care teachers and Year Level Leaders are printed below. Our office will help with the names of subject teachers when you ring.

Staff will try to return calls or respond to emails as quickly as possible, however, I'm sure that you'll appreciate that sometimes it's difficult to do this immediately due to teaching commitments. If the matter is urgent and the PC teacher or Year Level Leader is not available, parents / guardians might

like to speak with Kevin Quinn (Deputy Principal Pastoral Care) or Grace Cini (Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching).

Some families prefer email to phone contact. Staff email addresses follow a consistent pattern: the initial of their first name followed by their surname and then @crcstalbans.com.au.

Alternatively, emails sent to the College email at: principal@crcstalbans.com.au will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member.

Year Level Leaders 2015:

Year 7: Peter Danger pdanger@crcstalbans.com.au
 Year 8: Len Tobin ltobin@crcstalbans.com.au
 Year 9: Christopher Orsini corsini@crcstalbans.com.au
 Year 10: Vince Iannuzzi viannuzzi@crcstalbans.com.au

Pastoral Care Teachers

Year 7

7 Avoca: Melissa O'Shea
 7 Kiewa: Jenny Spataro
 7 Snowy: Chris Strachan
 7 Wimmera: Elaine Apostolopoulos
 7 Yarra: Josephine Lowe

Year 8

8 Attard: Giselle Grant
 8 Clarke: Mona-lisa Cantsilieris
 8 Edison: Jess Iaria
 8 Hollows: Ross Russo
 8 Orifici: Sangeeta Arora

Year 9

9 Barton: Garry Connor
 9 Curtin: Belinda Moss
 9 Deakin: Daniela Ibrido
 9 Hughes: Emily Lowe
 9 Lyons: Liam Stewart

Year 10

10 Little: Justin Mead
 10 McAuley: Maria Calafiore
 10 MacKillop: Mariella Pannunzio
 10 Mannix: Mhairi Shepherd
 10 O'Connell: Andrea Leury

Newsletter

The newsletter is published fortnightly and distributed on **Day 10 (Friday Week 2)**. Students will have a chance to read it before placing it in their diary to be taken home to parents that evening.

Newsletter Days for Term 1 2015:

Fridays:	13 th February	27 th February
	13 th March	27 th March

The newsletter can also be accessed on Friday morning (Day 10) on the College website at:

<http://www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au>

Student Diary

All students have received their diary. As this is an important avenue of communication between home and school we ask all parents / guardians to check diaries at least once a week.

Supervision

Parents and students are advised that the College grounds are supervised on a daily basis from 8.20am to 3.15pm, except on Wednesday when supervision commences at 8.30am and concludes at 3.15pm.

Outside these hours there are sometimes special activities, practices or events. For these parents are notified through the weekly newsletter or a special letter.

Parents need to know that students who arrive prior to 8.20am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8.30am on Wednesday or who leave after 3.15pm are not supervised.

The library is open until 4.30pm on Monday – Thursday and 4.00pm on Friday. Students are able to complete homework or read quietly in this space if they need to wait for parents.

School start / finish times

Students need to be at school by **8.40am** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and **9.05am** on Wednesdays.

Classes finish at 3.05pm each afternoon. **However, students may be detained by teachers until 3.20pm without formal notification to parents.** This allows teachers to follow up work, provide additional assistance or to address minor behavior issues before they become major.

Students who arrive at school prior to 9.05am on Wednesday mornings must remain in the school grounds. They cannot leave to go to St Albans with friends.

Notification of Absences

We ask that parents or guardians contact the school **before 10.00am** if a student is absent on any day. This can be done by phone on **9366 2544** or email to Jill Gerada at jgerada@crystalbans.com.au. As Jill is responsible for tracking absences we ask that parent notification by email be directed only to her, not to other staff.

If the phone call or email notifying absence is received it will be taken as the official explanation of the student's absence and no further note is required. If no contact is made with the school, a note explaining the absence will be required on the student's return to school.

To ensure the safety of students the College has a policy of contacting parents when a student is away from school without notification. Jill rings parents after 10.00am. It is a great help if parents/guardians ring before we make contact.

Student Leaders' Camp

Prior to the start of the school year I was very lucky to spend an evening at our Student Leaders' camp. They were involved in a range of activities to develop their leadership skills, to articulate their hopes and dreams for the year and to begin planning. During this year, they (like all of us) hope to:

- have a memorable year;
- develop our school community through whole school activities;
- set high expectations and standards, and develop positive relationships.

It was an absolute delight to listen to their ideas and to watch them work. Their enthusiasm, energy and ideas were incredibly impressive, as were their skills in working collaboratively. I look forward to all that our School Captains, Vice Captains, Social Justice Captains, SRC members and House Captains will bring to our community this year.

Thank you to our School Captains and Vice Captains for their work in planning this program and to Kevin Quinn, Claire Lawang and Hayden O'Doherty for leading this camp.

Peer Support Leaders

Thank you to the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who have been a great help in assisting the Year 7 students on Orientation Day and again on the first day for Year 7 students. Your sense of welcome, care and generosity are very much appreciated.

MacKillop Pins

At the open assembly we recognised a number of students for academic excellence in 2014.

The Mary MacKillop pin is awarded to the top 10 students at each year level. Results from Semester 1 and 2 are considered in selecting these students.

I'd like to congratulate all students who received a MacKillop Pin. You are indeed a talented group! Excellence is never an accident or luck. In Edison's words it is about 1 per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration, or in other words, hard work.

Recipients of the MacKillop pin generally have the ability to stick at things and to work hard even when the work is not immediately enjoyable. They're focussed, seek help, use feedback and constantly look for ways to do better. Well done on working hard throughout the year and doing everything to be the best you can be. Your pin is well deserved.

I'd also like to congratulate all the students who were not recognised with a pin, but who know that what they achieved last year was their very best. Well done!

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Recipients of the Mary MacKillop Pin for 2014 were:

Year 7 Dieuam Nguyen Tomas Carville Henry Chau Thuong Nguyen Tijana Vukadin Xavier Bondoc Ashol Arob Jocelyn Cuzcano David Thach Melody Enriquez Julia Bui	Year 8 Vivian Truong Glydel Lawang Jessica Nguyen (Hollows) Ilyssa Mendoza Stephanie Tran Anita Doan Emily Jong Kathleene Mendoza Edward Jeselnik Julie Phung Carolkim Tran
Year 9 Angela Nguyen Teresa Phan Carolinh Lamb Nina Pombeuna Phung Le Han Ly Minh Ngo James Le Caitlyn Sanahon Cindy Do	Year 10 Teresa Vu Lucero Cuzcano Cindy Lam Kristy Thinh Dorothy Tang Katelinh Lamb Jon Salalila Gabriel Sanding Marlene Do Frances Deen

2014 Learning Bursaries

As well as the MacKillop Pin we also awarded a learning bursary for the DUX (student with the most outstanding academic results for each year level). The recipients of these awards for 2014 were:

Year 7:	Thuong Nguyen
Year 8:	Glydel Lawang
Year 9:	Teresa Phan
Year 10:	Kristy Thinh

Congratulations to these students. Each had a terrific year and achieved results of which they should be very proud. We hope that each student uses the prize in some way towards their education.

Williams Cup

Congratulations to O'Reilly House on winning the 2014 Williams Cup. O'Reilly began the year with a win at the Swimming Carnival and held the lead from that point onwards. An outstanding effort!

Competition for the 2015 Williams Cup kicks off in the next few weeks with Interhouse Swimming and Project Compassion. We wish each House the very best.

Changes in contact details

Families are reminded that the school needs to be notified immediately that there are changes to phone contact details or addresses.

Applications for Year 7 2016

It is hard to think that we are already planning towards next year. Enrolments are now being taken for Year 7 2016. Application forms and College Information packs can be obtained from the front office at any time. The application form can also be downloaded from the College website at www.crcstalbans.catholic.edu.au.

Since our last newsletter.....

Over and above the day to day activities of the school since our last newsletter students, families and staff have participated in the following:

Student Leaders Camp
 Peer Support Training
 Day 1 for Year 7 students
 Year 9 Family Night
 Year 9 Trinity

I am sure that students and their families are very appreciative of all these opportunities and the time and energy that staff put into organising and offering these experiences.

Term Dates 2015

Term 1: Monday 2nd February – Friday 27th March
 (Year 7's begin on Fri 30th Jan)
 Term 2: Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June
 Term 3: Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September
 Term 4: Monday 5th October – Friday 4th December
 (Years 7 – 9)

Please Note:

Year 10 students finish at the College on Thursday 26th November but have an Orientation program at CRC Sydenham from Monday 30th November to the Friday 4th December.

Years 9 and 10 end of year exams will be held from **Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th November, 2015.**

Families planning to travel at the end of 2015 are asked to note that the Orientation program at Sydenham is compulsory and that exams must be taken within the exam timetable. They cannot be taken before or after the exam week.



CHRISTINA UTRI
 PRINCIPAL



Wednesday Morning Mass

Wednesday Mass will commence on Ash Wednesday 18th February. All staff, students and families are welcome to attend mass at 8:30am to begin our Lenten journey at Sacred Heart Church.

A Wednesday Mass timetable will be published in the next newsletter.

St Vinnie's Crew

Meetings for the St Vinnie's Crew (Social Justice Team) will be held every Thursday at lunchtime in room 28. Any new members are welcome to attend and join the team.

Meet our Social Justice Captains for 2015:

Hieu Nguyen

Hello. My name's Hieu. I am the Social Justice Captain of 2015. Social justice is important to me because I believe that everyone needs help no matter what; that people's voices need to be heard.

I have been a member of the St Vinnie's crew for the past 2 years and am still a member. It is a great group to be part of and it makes me feel like I am making a difference. The many activities we plan and conferences we attend are informative and fun. I encourage new members to join.

As Social Justice Captain what I look forward to in this role is helping and supporting the school throughout the year.



Faith Nguyen

Social justice is important to me because I believe that equality is the key thing that should occur between all students and teachers. Within our school community, everyone should feel the sense of peace and be comfortable with each other throughout the year. It is also important that all year levels can collaborate and work with each other and understand that no year level is more superior to another, but are all equal and should be treated fairly.

In my personal life, I've been to many charity events to help out; whether it's labour work, handing flyers out, going around asking for donations or even giving my own time and money. These are the littlest things you can do, it doesn't have to be something incredibly big. Every little thing counts!

As one of the Social Justice Captains, I look forward to communicating with many new faces and organising the small upcoming events with other student leaders throughout the year. I am also looking forward to leading and being part of the St Vinnie's crew and I encourage more new people to join this crew and be part of something special.



**LENTEN TIMES
IN OUR PARISH**

Ash Wednesday

RESURRECTION, KINGS PARK
18th February 9.15am & 7.15pm

HOLY EUCHARIST, ST ALBANS
VIETNAMESE :
Tuesday 17th February at 7.30pm.
ENGLISH :
18th February 9.00am & 6.00pm

ST PAUL'S
18th February 7.30am & 9.30am

ST MARY MACKILLOP
18th February 11:00am & 7.30pm

SACRED HEART
7.30am, 8.30am & 7.30pm

EMMAUS
10.00am & 6.30pm

CANA
11.30am

Lunar New Year masses

HOLY EUCHARIST, ST ALBANS
This year, the Vietnamese New Year falls on 18 February (Ash Wednesday) which coincides with the Lunar New Year. For pastoral reasons, the Archbishop permits Catholic Vietnamese communities to celebrate the Vigil of Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday 7.30pm
followed by an outdoor concert, foodstall and firecrackers.

Thursday 7.30pm

Friday 7.30pm

Saturday 7.30pm

Please note that Wednesday night is the only night that will be followed by outdoor celebrations.

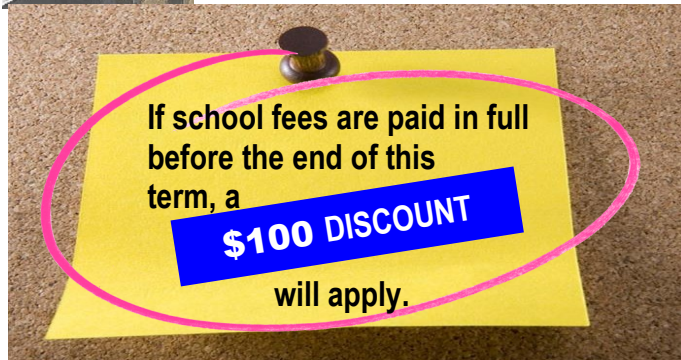


**PROJECT COMPASSION
IS COMING!!!**

**START COLLECTING YOUR LOOSE CHANGE.
WHICH HOUSE WILL RAISE THE MOST
FUNDS THIS YEAR?
ACTIVITIES AND WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT
WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.**



family Matters



Sumdog

All students in years 7 and 8 have been given a subscription to Sumdog.



Sumdog provides access to educational games that are aimed at motivating students to practise maths, reading and writing.

- Students can play multiplayer games against others worldwide.
- Teachers can monitor student progress and set specific skill based tasks for them.
- Sumdog is adaptative – tailoring questions to the individual needs of students and guiding their progress.

Students simply need their username, password and the school code (**catholic_3**) to access the program.

Website: http://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in

Enrolments for Year 7 2016 are now open

Enrolment information is available from the school office or school website.

Visits are conducted throughout the year and arranged at a time to suit families and the school.

Please ring Anne Stokie on 9366 2544 or contact her for further information at: astokie@crcstalbens.com.au

Alternatively, visit our website at:
www.crcstalbens.catholic.edu.au

School Vaccination Program 2015

The Immunisation program will run again this year, with Brimbank Council again supplying nurses and staff to administer the injections. The program is free for all students when they receive the vaccines at school.

This year the dates of vaccinations are:

Friday 20th Feb, next week

Wednesday 22nd April

Wednesday 26th August

Boostrix (diphtheria, tetanus & whooping cough) will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Both **HPV vaccine** and **Chicken Pox** will be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7.

Students will receive their vaccination cards later this week or early next week and they need to be **returned** by

Wednesday 18th February

to your child's homeroom teacher.

Changes in contact details

Families are reminded that the school needs to be notified immediately that there are changes to phone contact details or addresses.



Catholic Regional College

Sydenham Enrolments

for Yr 11 2016 are closing soon.

Enrolments for Year 11 students in Sydenham will close on **Monday 16 February 2015**; parents should lodge the required documentation with the \$215 enrolment fee by this date to ensure a position at this College.

If you have any queries please contact Gina Zumbo , Enrolments Officer on 9361 0000.

KEY DATES 2015

A full calendar for Term 1 will be sent home to families in the first week of 2015. However, key dates for Term 1 2015 are listed below:

Wednesday 18th February 2015:
Ash Wednesday

Thursday 19th February 2015:
Opening Mass

Thursday 26th February 2015:
Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Monday 9th March 2015:
Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 10th March 2015:
Early finish for students (12.30pm)

Wed 11/3 – Fri 13/3 2015:
Year 8 Great Escape Country Experience

Tuesday 24th March 2015:
SACCS Interschool Swimming

Friday 27th March 2015:
Final Day Term 1

CRC LIBRARY NEWS

... yes, we do have books, AND the latest magazines, daily newspapers, computers for student use PLUS friendly staff waiting to help you.

The library is open @ recess, lunchtime and after school every day.



COME AND VISIT US
You might find something new and exciting in the library.

Brimbank Sustainable Living Expo

Guest Speaker: Costa Georgiadis
from ABC Gardening Australia

Saturday 21 February 2015, 10am-3pm
Westvale Community Centre 45 Kings Road, St Albans

Activities include:

- Sustainable living & DIY workshops
- Cooking, health & wellbeing demonstrations
- Clothes swap
- Vege, jam & preserve swap
- Information sessions
- Recycle book giveaway
- Recycled art & craft and Planting activities
- Animals of Oz wildlife and Animal farm
- Exhibits on bee keeping, friends groups, refashion & repair

Someone Once Said...

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

– Thomas A Edison

AIRFORCE CADETS

Sunshine AAFC has vacancies for 13-18 year olds interested in a career in aviation or the military. Come along to our

INFORMATION EVENING

Wed 25 Feb @ 7pm sharp

Where: Army Depot, 101 Duke St Sunshine

For more info: Cadet Warrant Officer Olivia

Frankiewicz — 0447 044 734 or email -

admno.405sqn@aafc.org.au

AMES

YOUR HELP AND FRIENDSHIP NEEDED

Can you speak, read and write English confidently? Do you enjoy meeting people from other cultures? Can you spare 2 hours each week to help someone?

If so, a new arrival would love your friendship and help to learn English. No qualifications or experience needed. FREE TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROVIDED. Contact Rosemary Harman on 9366 0433 or harmanr@ames.net.au

EMERGENCY ALERT. BE WARNED. BE INFORMED.

If there is a bushfire, flood, severe storm or other major emergency near you, the emergency services may choose to warn you by text to your mobile or a voice message to your home phone.

Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning system. It uses the address where your phone is registered and the actual location of your mobile to reach you:

- when your home or school is near an emergency
- when you are travelling with your mobile near an emergency.

When the emergency services use the telephone warning system:

- a home phone within the warning area may receive a recorded voice message that begins with "Emergency, Emergency", and/or
- a mobile phone that is switched on and in an area of mobile coverage may receive a text message.

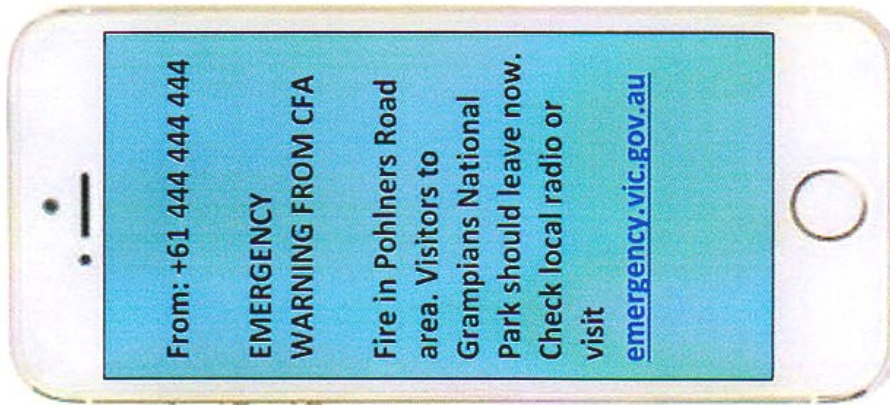
The service is free and you do not need to register.

The warning message will tell you:

- which emergency service sent the message: eg CFA
- about the emergency and where it is
- what you should do to stay safe
- where you can get more information.

All telephone warnings come from the official number:
+61 444 444 444

Example Text Alert



Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert system.

If they receive a warning message on the home phone or a warning text on their personal mobile, encourage them to stay calm and show or repeat the message to a responsible adult they know, such as a relative or teacher.

If adults are not around, encourage them to follow the action given in the alert.

For more information about the system, visit emergencyalert.gov.au and watch the video (it's in 30 languages).

In an emergency, do not rely just on your telephone for a warning.

- Stay aware of your surroundings
- Listen to local radio
- Visit emergency.vic.gov.au
- Download the **FireReady** app
- Go to [facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)
- Follow **@CFA_Updates** on Twitter

