From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome BAR-BE-QUE, Thursday 26th February, 5.00pm onwards.

Welcome back to all our families/carers and a special welcome to all new families whose children are joining us for their first year at WDSS. We have had a great start to the year, with the majority of students settling back into their school routine with all good cheer, and staff very pleased to see their fresh smiling faces.

We begin the year with 131 students, two new classrooms and some new staff - Adrian Rocchiccioli (Bogong) and Kate Mulqueen, (Kossie) and are pleased that Sarah Holmes Brown has returned to teach in Mt Morgan. We are also thrilled to have Maggie Snowden and Chris Knowles, two gap year students who are working across several rooms.

Welcome to the following students and their families/carers into our school.

Foundation and Junior students - Ernest Dureya-Sait, Aiden McMillan, Declan Stel, Bailey Mackrell, Maddi Hill are in Taminick, Jordan Barkley (Stirling), Madeleine Wernert (Mt Pilot), Normia Rhodes Orton, Coby Brown, Kane Pierce (Mt Beauty).
The following students are welcomed into the Middle school unit: Wayne Davey, Bailey Mathieson (Kossie), Chloe Day, Jessica Elkan, Liam Mossop, Lauren Naylor, Enda Prosser, Shakira Banks (Mt Morgan), Tim Marengo (Mt Emu).

Senior - Jade Alty (Warby) Grace Churchill (VCAL)

Leadership team: Our leadership/consultative group meets fortnightly and makes decisions about important whole school issues. Unit leaders Lisa Detlefsen, Alysha Jackson (nee Caccianiga) and Elise Aggenbach, together with Leanne Martin (PBS Coordinator) and Adrian Rocchiccioli (union rep), Suzanne Sinclair (transition) as well as Ash Pearson and Lizz Gourley (education support) make up the 2015 Leadership team.

We thank Dave Couttie for his role for the past 4 years as PBS Coordinator and the AEU representative on Leadership. Dave has worked tirelessly to implement this whole school approach and has been a champion for Positive Behaviour Support.

Awards at GOTAFE: Congratulations to Matthew Johnson Begg for his award as the TEC student of the year at GOTAFE last year.

Congratulations also to James Elkan who was recognised in the Australia Day awards at Moyhu. More on this on page 7.

Welcome Bar Be Que: we encourage all parents/carers and families to join us on the 27th February for a Welcome to WDSS Bar-Be-Que from 5.00pm onwards. We will supply sausages, bread, salads and drinks to all. Please return the Reply form to aid catering. It is always a great time to talk with new and returning staff to meet all families. Come along and join us. Reply form on page 9.

Dates to Remember

O.T. - Mandy - 17th, 19th, 24th & 26th Feb.

Welcome Barbeque - Thursday, 26th Feb commencing at 5.00pm

Tuesday 24th Feb. & Tuesday 24th March Parent /Carer Club meeting at WDSS

Wangaratta Farmers Market—14th March
From the Principal’s Desk  cont...

**Spirit of Christmas**: Last December, the VCAL class together with several parent volunteers, and supporters of Spirit of Christmas distributed over 10,000 Christmas gifts for 3 hectic days. This community incentive is in its second year is a credit to all involved, and is something VCAL and all the school is proud to be involved.

**Parent/Carer Club** Meetings will beheld this term on February 24th and March 24 at the school. Please send your RSVP’s to Rose Couttie, our School Chaplain, who hosts these get togethers.

**Fees** – the fee structure was reviewed again last year, and after great deliberation, School Council decided to increase the fees to $100 a term. This is the first time fees have been raised for many years. The fees go some way towards stationary, classroom books, computer software, audio visuals, art, technology, sports equipment, year book, running and maintaining our four buses etc. This allows the school to provide the excellent programs which it does so that students can continue to be engaged in their learning. As readers are aware we have had to charge $5.00 for students to swim. This decision has been a difficult one, and we are hoping that families will support the school. Leadership in consultation with staff believe that the juniors should swim all year round, whereas the Middle and Senior school students should swim for 2 terms. Please talk to your child’s teacher or myself, for support for the $5.00 a week for swimming. We thank those families who have already paid, and those who have made some contribution.

**Music Teacher Elizabeth Bourke** has approached the school to let folks know that she is available for private music lessons. Elizabeth wrote to me recently and said, “My students include Australian champions (Organ/Electone), Intermediate and Beginners in both Piano and Organ. I have taught ages ranging from three years of age right up to seventy plus. I have experience teaching children who are blind and who have intellectual disabilities, who have gone onto becoming teachers themselves”.

If you or anyone else is interested, Elizabeth can be contacted on 0431 066 217 or through the school.

**Good Luck**: I wish all staff, students and their families a fabulous year at W.D.S.S. We look forward to working with you all to benefit our students.

**Bike Thieves**: Sadly 7 bikes were stolen from our school. We are very sad, as we had only bought them in December. Please give any information to the police.

**Aspect** are having another three day training session in Wangaratta. It is wonderful information for families and they receive in house support and help with strategies. Please don’t miss this opportunity if you have a child with autism whose behaviour is distressing. There is a flyer on the back page of the newsletter.

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**Principal’s Awards:**

- **Enda Prosser** for being respectful by using manners when speaking
- **Tim Marengo** for being a learner by working so hard during his first week of school
- **Bailey Mathieson** for being safe by choosing safe games to play in the yard

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**Libby Hosking**
Principal
FROM THE GARDEN

It’s getting hot. Thank you to John and Bill for their help in watering the garden over the Christmas holidays. We have come back to growing vegetables ready for the new students starting the SAKGP. This semester Hotham and Mt Beauty have already completed their wheel barrow licences and are ready to get cooking in the kitchen. We have an abundance of zucchinis, some beans, basil, parsley and other herbs, with a couple of carrots, lettuce and beetroot left over from last year. Unfortunately the tomatoes in the orchard seem to have fruit fly! So we will be limited by the varieties we can harvest – hopefully they will leave our cherry tomatoes alone. Kosciusko is going to help beautify the school, planting, watering, and maintaining areas of the garden that have been a little neglected over the past few months. Warby is going to help set up a stall for the Wangaratta Farmers Market on March 14th. We aim to be sell salad leaves, bunches of herbs, seedlings, and seeds which the students have grown themselves. Please put it in your diaries.

FROM THE KITCHEN Zucchini Carpaccio

Have you ever tried raw zucchini? If not you must try this recipe. It is a lovely and delicate salad. Enjoy.

Ingredients:
2 medium sized zucchinis (you don’t want the seeds to have matured) 1/2 red onion, Lemon juice, Olive oil, 50g Feta and Herbs – I like parsley and basil, but you could try anything you like.

Method:
Slice the zucchini very fine (or you could use the peeler) and arrange on a plate.
Slice the red onion very fine (in rings) again you might be able to use the peeler.
Arrange the red onion slivers on top of the zucchini
Squeeze the juice of the lemon and sprinkle over the zucchini and onion.
Drizzle a small amount of olive oil over the salad
Crumble the feta over the top of the zucchinis.
Cut herbs up very fine and sprinkle over the top (not too many)
Season with salt and pepper.
You could add pine nuts or anything else if you wanted to.

Volunteers Wanted for Kitchen Garden Program

The SAKG Program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to volunteer in the kitchen or garden, whether you have one hour to spare or a whole morning, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Joanne Wheeler on 5721 7424
Together We Will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.

Mt. Beauty - Kate and Lizz

Welcome back everyone! Its been great to see all students happy, smiling and enjoying learning already! In Mt Beauty, all students have been working very hard in all aspects of their learning. We have been focusing on being learners in Maths whilst using the MAB blocks. Being respectful in the yard when trying to be aware of others personal space and being safe in P.E with Robyn. We discussed road and bike safety before we go for rides out of the school. All students had really positive comments about what we need to be doing and what to be aware of when riding bikes.

We have been taking some time of our class room learning to do some name learning in Mt Beauty this week. As everyone is aware, we have welcomed many new students this year across the school. Mt Beauty welcomed Kane Pierce and Mia Rhodes-Orton. Kane has moved all the way from Melbourne and Mia from Benalla. They have settled into our school and their new class very well. We have been playing the name game with a very long piece of string and the animal name game!

Our highlight for the week was our buddies session with Mt Emu, This will be a weekly activity. We read ‘Mrs Wishy-Washy’ as a group, then partnered up to decorate biscuits. Mt Beauty students really enjoyed the activities as well as the social interaction with some older students.

From The Chaplain’s Desk

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
Special thanks to Ros, her sister-in-law, Suzanne Pavor, Donna (bus), Edgar’s, Sarah, Kylie (Al Tyrepower), Alissa Rhodes (Rose’s daughter) and Chris Clapham (teacher at Wang West) for donations to the Goldie Trading Centre. We are very grateful for the ongoing generosity of many.

Classroom Programs
These have recommenced with “Feelings” (and the need to deal appropriately with our feelings and to recognise how others are feeling to avoid worsening the situation for ourselves and others) the current topic throughout all classes.
It is great to see how well all students and staff immersed themselves in programs and the work ethics throughout is commendable. Well done all!

Welcome/Welcome Back
A warm welcome to those who are joining us for the first time. We hope your time with us is both enjoyable and rewarding. We have several returning to us after some years and we welcome their return. Finally, to those who are back again after the holidays, we welcome you also and hope that all staff, students and families have a wonderful year.
Hopefully you enjoyed the Christmas, New Year and holiday period and I look forward to meeting you or again catching up.
Kindest regards to all.

Rose
The students in Buller have enjoyed their return to school after the long Christmas break and have been eager to immerse themselves in learning activities and games. We always ensure that school is fun and we know students are enjoying themselves by the happy smiles they wear on their faces. Everyone was very happy during a music lesson we shared with the students of Buffalo class last week. There was a very pleasing cacophony of noise in the classroom as we accompanied our singing with enthusiastic playing of percussion instruments. We are practicing early for our concert item this year!

When the weather is fine we enjoy going on walks outside to see the sights around the school. We were very excited this week to visit a new classroom. It was fun going down the new ramp there.
Stirling - Lisa, Robyn, Jill, Maggie and Luke

Students in Stirling have started the school year very well. This year we have Aiden, Stella, Noah, Weeny, Matthew B., Jordan and Locky. We are practicing lining up, how to treat others, listening and looking, how to sit in a group, and all things about being respectful, safe, and good learners. We have been so busy in the classroom that we haven’t even taken many photos! But here is a photo of all of us in the class. Welcome to a new year!

Hotham - Alysha, Robyn and Sheydin

Welcome to Hotham 2015! We are quickly settling into our new routines and getting to know new classmates and teachers. Hotham is a classroom of 9 girls with teachers Alysha and Robyn and assistant Sheydin. We also have some furry members in our room including Caramel and White Chocolate the guinea pigs. Our timetable includes Writers Notebook, Numeracy, Art with Ros, Horticulture with Jo, Electives, Community Access, PE with Hop and laptops. Robyn works in Hotham on Thursday when the girls participate in the Stephanie Alexander cooking program and enjoy a music session in the afternoons.

Zara is a new addition to WDSS and has settled in well with the girls in Hotham. She enjoys dancing, the colour purple and listening to Sam Smith. We celebrated Zara’s birthday with her on her very first day at WDSS and we are looking forward to getting to know Zara throughout the year. Zara receives this week’s Student of the Week – nice to meet you Zara!

Return Slip for Newsletter 13/02/2015- Name of Student

Return slip to school office to be in the draw for a prize.
**Hop’s Sports Column**

Our students have made a great return to school refreshed and ready to participate in the physical education program. A special mention to our new students who have settled in easily with their new school mates.

Senior students from VCAL and Warby took part in a water safety afternoon at the Ovens River in Wangaratta on Friday 6th of February. This day was catered for by Royal Life Saving Victoria and it was well received by students and staff alike.

Student of the Week goes to anew student to our school in LIAM Mossop who made a fantastic start to his year. His efforts and caring attitude is well appreciated by students and staff.

**Mt. Emu - Leanne and Jack**

One of our Mt. Emu students, James Elkan was presented ‘Local Achiever of the Year’ award on Australia Day the 26th of January. On behalf of Wangaratta District Specialist School we congratulate James for this well-deserved achievement. As you can see by the pictures, James’ teachers were invited by the Elkan family to attend such a great celebration. Jenny, Ken and the Elkan family were very proud to see James receive that a fantastic award.

Mt. Emu class has seven students from 2014, James E, James P, Brody, Dan, Mitch, Vincent, and Tayten. Jack and I would like to welcome three new students to Mt. Emu, Scott, Dylan and Tim who is new to our school. All students have started 2015 with great learning attitudes. Over the holidays the Mt. Emu students have remembered WDSS expectations that is, Together We Will: Be Learners! Be Safe! and Be Respectful!

This year Mt. Emu students are taking part in Bike Education program, with a focus on road safety and road rules. There are three modules the students will need to undertake in the classroom and bike riding during PE classes. Just like last year we will be going on a bike camp to Bright in term 4.

The Mount Emu boys started Bike Ed with Jack and Robyn. We rode across the new bridge that connects the Williams road bike path to Yarrawonga road.
On Friday the Warby and VCAL classes attended the *Lifesaving Victoria (LSV)* Open Water Learning Experience (OWLE) in the Ovens River near the CBD in Wangaratta.

The program comprised fun and educational activities, delivered by lifesavers from LSV that provided students with a practical approach to familiarizing themselves with their local open water environments. With a major emphasis on water safety, the program teaches and empowers students to use lifesaving skills including-

**Everyday Lifesavers:**
The students were given the skills and opportunity to be 'Everyday Lifesavers' with a variety of age-appropriate and engaging real life scenarios, as they learnt the emergency response sequence, DRSABCD.

**Survival Strategies:**
Wearing a lifejacket, and practicing important survival techniques, as well as entering and exiting the water, were survival strategies the students learnt and can use if they find themselves in trouble in the water.

**Rescue Strategies:**
Rescue ropes, are an example of rescue items the students had an opportunity to practice using, which will enable them to make informed decisions if ever they are required to perform a rescue.

**Safe Body Boarding:**
Body boards are a popular activity enjoyed by many children in open waterways. The students learnt key skills needed to stay safe, including safety equipment like Life jackets.

**James** - We went Lifesaving, I learnt how to save someone with a rope.

**Jade** - When we went lifesaving I learnt to save someone with CPR.

**Subir** - I learnt not to swim alone.

**Josh** - I learnt how to safely get people out the river with rope.

**Meron** - One of the things I learnt about was that water currents can change.

**Grace** - I didn’t think it worked having little kids there but it was fun in the water though.

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**1st Canteen for 2015**

Friday 13th February is sees the start of the VCAL Canteen program for 2015. The menu for this week is “Chicken, lettuce & mayo pitta pockets, Jelly fruit & yoghurt and a fruit juice drink. Great value for money at $5.50

Please remember to return orders by Wednesday, thank you, VCAL class.
Welcome to Taminick 2015! We have started the year on a high, with all of our class members ready to learn and achieve. Last week we were busy getting to know one another. We have been using our indoor and outdoor area lots, and our picnic table has become our eating area. We have been using our imagination with our Zoob connectors, and outside we have been enjoying water play, sand, rice and bubbles. Our circle time in the morning is really important as it gets us ready for the day. We sing our morning song, say hello to one another and talk about what is going to happen in the day. We have been using the trampoline and it is one of our favourite places to be! We are very lucky it is just outside our room. Our class members Maddie, Millie, Bailey, Matthew, Declan, Ernie and Aiden are eager to learn and very inquisitive. Welcome to all our new and old families!

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Stanley - Donna, Jacqui and Simon

What a great beginning to the 2015 school year! We were all very happy to be back at school to see our friends and our teachers. We had many smiling faces on that first day back which was great to see. There was a lot of talk about what we all did over the summer holidays and it certainly sounds as if everyone had a good break. As there were not many staffing or student changes to the Stanley classroom we have been able to get right back into our classroom routine without issue. We have already started our swimming program with everyone returning forms promptly which was greatly appreciated. We look forward to a terrific year here in the Stanley classroom.

Welcome Barbeque

We will be coming to the 2015 Welcome Barbeque to be held at WDSS on Thursday 26th February commencing at 5.00pm.

There will be ________ Adults and ____________ children.

Students name __________________________ Signed __________________________

parent / carer
Together we will: Be Learners. Be Safe. Be Respectful.

**Morgan - Sarah and Sharon**

Introducing....Morgan!

Welcome to a new year at WDSS and to our room! Morgan is one of the new classes at WDSS and we are lucky to have lots of genius’ in our room– just check out the wall in our room and see all the outstanding things that we can do. This semester we are looking forward to participating in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and blueearth.

We all got off to a flying start with Liam starring, receiving a student of the week award for being an excellent learner and Hop’s sports award. Fantastic Liam!

We are all looking forward to having a wonderful year. Watch this space to see more of our wonderful achievements.

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**Feathertop - Lee, Stella and Lea**

All of the students in Feathertop have had a great start to the year. This semester we are starting our weekly cooking program. We are cooking meals that we will be able to cook at home for our families.

This week we have been looking at goal setting and setting some goals for ourselves to strive towards. We are all looking forward to achieving these goals.

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**Bogong - Adrian, Fiona and Chris**

Hello my name is Adrian Rocchiccioli and I am fortunate enough to be the classroom teacher in Mt Bogong. It is my first year teaching at Wangaratta District Specialist School. A big thank-you to everyone for making me feel welcome, in particular Fiona and Chris and the students of Mt Bogong: Will, Ewan, Chloe, Katelyn, Damon and Toby. In Bogong we are working on our independent living skills including road safety, personal care and cooking. The class enjoyed the community access visit to Apex park.
Our 2015 Kossie group has settled in well and we welcome the new boys Bailey, Shannon and Wayne to the school and to our class. It was pleasing to see how every student was ready to learn from the first day, everyone has embraced their new class and there is plenty of great work being done in our key areas of being learners, being respectful and being safe. Well done to Matthew for earning student of the week last week for his fantastic attitude in doing his best in the classroom and around the school. We look forward to bike riding on Wednesday and swimming on Fridays.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Students of the Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6th February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bogong</strong></td>
<td>Ewan Parker for being respectful by helping their teacher to settle into the school.</td>
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<td><strong>Buffalo</strong></td>
<td>Callum Sartori for being a learner by spelling out words with the magnetic letters.</td>
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<td><strong>Buller</strong></td>
<td>Jye Lepenick for learning to enjoy his new class.</td>
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<td><strong>Feathertop</strong></td>
<td>Beth Walsh for being a learner and make great strides with her reading.</td>
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<td><strong>Hotham</strong></td>
<td>Zara Hosking for being a positive new student in the Hotham classroom.</td>
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<td><strong>Kosciusko</strong></td>
<td>Matthew Cole for being a learner in all aspects of his classwork.</td>
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<td><strong>Morgan</strong></td>
<td>Liam Mossop- for being a learner by completing and taking on new tasks with great enthusiasm.</td>
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<td><strong>Mt. Beauty</strong></td>
<td>Mark for being a learner in maths. Mia for settling in well to her new school. Kane for being respectful by following teachers instructions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mt Emu</strong></td>
<td>Tim Marengo for settling into his new school. He has been a fantastic learner.</td>
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<td><strong>Mt. Pilot</strong></td>
<td>Zac King for being a responsible member of the classroom and helping the adults when we moved classrooms.</td>
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<td><strong>Stanley</strong></td>
<td>Chris Richards for being a learner and remembering to do the little things without being asked.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stirling</strong></td>
<td>Noah Antonello for being a learner by remembering to wear his new glasses at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taminick</strong></td>
<td>Madilyn Hill for being respectful by making her friends feel better when they are sad.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VCAL</strong></td>
<td>Jessy McEwan for being a learner - working very hard to produce work of an excellent standard.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Warby</strong></td>
<td>Mat Ritchie for being a learner and completing his ICT project individually.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sport</strong></td>
<td>Liam Mossop who made a fantastic start to his year. His efforts and caring attitude is well appreciated by students and staff.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our theme for this term is Together We Will…….show respect for each other by caring for each other. We began talking about always going on walks with a friend. Especially when we are going into the bush or in long grass during the summer when snakes are prevalent. We discussed the safety procedures in the event of one person being bitten by a snake or hurting themselves. The need to be very watchful when out and about because snakes are so well camouflaged.

Students dabbed rollers on black or white paper for the background. They used patterns to decorate paper strips and their snakes. They then added the paper strips to their background and finally pasted their snake on them all. These are some of their fabulous creations.

Jo and I have combined some classes to produce beautiful art pieces that can be added to our Stefanie Alexander Gardening Program. Students have designed and begun the process of placing tile pieces on their design that will be grouted onto planter boxes that will be placed around our school. Brandon Fraumano designed this chook and has placed tile pieces strategically. The finished mosaic should look awesome. It’s been great to see Brandon back at school.
Positive Behaviour Support Workshop
For Parents and Carers of Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder
(see eligibility criteria below)

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop in the Eastern Region of Victoria.

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect’s Positive Behaviour Support workshops across Australia. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

When: 3rd, 4th & 5th March, 2015
Where: Our Lady’s Primary School
52-60 White St, Wangaratta VIC 3677
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for registration)
Cost: FREE (Tea, coffee & biscuits provided ~ participants to bring own lunch)
Registration: Register online at www.autismspectrum.org.au/registration
Please note: You may search for this specific workshop location by entering the location into the ‘Search Keyword’ field

Eligibility to participate in this Workshop:
- Parents or carers of children and young adults aged between 6 - 25 years, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- The individual with ASD must be living at home
- Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

Families participating in this workshop will:
- Develop an understanding of autism and how an ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour
- Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home
- Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours
- Learn how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
- Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life

Enquiries:
Contact Amber Day – Workshop Administrator or Heather Kirkhope - Service Coordinator
Phone: 03 9377 6600 or email: aday@autismspectrum.org.au

What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:

“Brilliant information and concrete strategies to use, thank you. I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child’s, my own and my family’s quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others.”

“Fantastic presentation. Very interactive, affirming & capacity building. Ideas not just discussed but taught how to follow through.”
“Best information session on Autism I have been to. So much clarity about getting to the core behaviour, unpeeling the onion. Enjoyed all the visuals. Thank you so much.”