Boort District P - 12 School

9 - 27 Malone St
BOORT, 3537
Ph: 03 5455 2201
Mobile 0477 741 594
Email: boort.district.p12@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.boortds.vic.gov.au

February 5th 2020 **Issue 1**

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to empower our students and staff to work together to become active and valued community members. We provide a safe and supportive learning environment, which fosters independent, resilient lifelong learners.

BDS Motto: **'Achieving Excellence Together'**

BDS Beliefs and Values: **Acting in a Safe and Responsible Manner**

We ask that students are not on the school grounds before 8.40am each day as supervision is not provided before this time.

DIARY DATES

February
7th Yr 7-12 House Swimming sports
17th NCD Swimming Sports
21st F-6 House Swimming sports
24th – 26th Year 8 Surf Camp
28th Whole School Assembly

March
4th School Photos
20th School Fete

Principal's Report

Welcome back

A big welcome back to all our families and students. We hope you had a great holiday and are looking forward to a good year.

School Fete

Our school fete will be held on Friday, 20th March. A poster is included in this newsletter. This will be a fabulous, fun-filled event for the whole family.

Xuno and Update forms

Thanks to the many families who have returned the Update forms, particularly those who have provided alternative email addresses for use with Xuno.
All new families have been sent a welcome email to log in and access Xuno. You will see a personal dashboard that will take you to timetables and tasks for each child you have at school. If families have the same email for each adult, just use the same password to access your dashboards.

Working Bees for 2020

Based on information from the update forms, a roster for the working bees will be created and sent out via email and newsletter, very shortly.

Eftpos Facility and family accounts

A reminder that we have the facility at the General Office to take payments via Eftpos. This means camps, excursions, fees, computer charges or other incidental items can be paid with credit or debit cards, if you wish.
Family accounts will be sent out soon. If you would like to organise a payment plan for monies owed, please make an appointment to see Lois Mitchell.

Bushfire and Snakes

As always at this time of year, we face the problems of snakes and potential bushfire threats. We do everything we can to keep grass and weeds cut, and we warn our students to be on the lookout for snakes – but not to touch them.

We are a Bushfire at Risk School and as such we have an up-to-date emergency management plan and we will let parents know of any possible school closures. The Regional Office determines if we close our school and lets us know of possible bus route closures too. All families will be informed if the school is affected by bushfire.

Uniform

I have had some reports about families being unable to access uniforms. I have spoken to our supplier, Hip Pocket, and they have experienced some issues with their supplier who did not deliver the order of uniform requested for mid-January. They have been in contact with them and asked them to hurry up. They are frustrated with the delays and are very apologetic about not being able to give families the items they need.

Lee-Anne Sherwell
Principal

Principal's Availability Next Week

Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
At School	Swimming Sports 7-12	At School	At School	At School

Did you know you can send messages to teachers through Xuno? Click on the **School** menu and then click on the **Messages** item. If you're using a mobile device, you'll need to tap on the menu icon in the top right first, before you can tap on the **School** menu. However, if you need to report a student absence please ring the school.

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATES

Students have received a 2020 Student Information Update. We ask that the form be completed and returned to the school by **Monday, 3rd February**. This is a short turn around but permission is needed for the students to take part in a number of programs, including the swimming program.

2020 School fees

Welcome back to a new school year. Thanks to those families who have made BPay payments into family accounts. Please return all students' 2020 fees invoice to the office to check off payments.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

How to Apply

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **New student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **Changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Celebrating Student Achievement
Over the month of January, data was released regarding the achievement of our Year 12 students of 2019. This group had all Senior VCAL students successfully complete their Senior VCAL Certificate, they achieved the 14th highest score for Government schools in Victoria for 40 plus study scores, they were 24th ranked with a median study score of 31, and had all students who applied for tertiary courses receive either their first or second offer. We wish them all the best in their tertiary studies, training or employment in 2020.

Mobile Phone Policy
The school thanks parents and students for their co-operation in dealing with the new compulsory arrangements. A reminder that Year 7-8 students bringing phones to school are to bring them to the school office before school and pick them up at the end of the day. Students in Years 9-12 have been supplied with a lock – phones are to remain switched off and be in lockers from 8.50am until the end of the school day.

Gateways Landscaping
The Gateways group is looking for old rusty farm machinery, old wood or sleepers and rocks that they could use to construct gardens in various parts of the school. Please email me on bleicher.thomas.t@edumail.vic.gov.au or catch up with me if you can help out.

Construction Induction Course
Every year, the North Central LLEN run a Construction Induction Card course for cluster students. This is available again for our Year 10-12 students on Thursday 5th March. Students who are looking at areas such as engineering, construction, landscaping or any area that may require entry to a building site either for Work Experience, Work Placement, part time work or for after school finishes, are urged to complete this course. Students are asked to see Mr Bleicher to book a spot for this day. Payment must be received prior to the student attending the day. Please see the brochure attached advertising this. This will be available through Year 10-12 Home Group Teachers.
Tom Bleicher

North Central Trade Training Centre
NCTTC
www.charlton.vic.edu.au/nctrc
Phone: (03) 5491 1280

Construction Induction Card Training

CPCCOHS1001A - Work Safely in the Construction Industry

This unit of competency provides a basic introduction to Occupational Health & Safety in order to work safely in the construction industry.

Date: Thursday 5th March 2020
Time: One day, school hours
Location: North Central Trade Training Centre, Charlton
Cost: $100 per student
Trainer: Skillinvest

Please note minimum number are required to run the session
Please call ASAP to register your interest

Enquiries: Mary-Ann Sait (North Central LLEN)
Mobile: 0400 696 156

North Central LLEN

Year 7 to 9 Mathematics
SQUIZYA Homework Program

This year students from Year 7 to Year 9 will be doing their mathematics homework on the sQuizya website. This is the interactive version of the Maths Mate homework program the school has used for many years.

All students from Year 7 to 9 will have received an email via their school email account giving them their passwords to allow them to do this. The membership fee of $6 is included in your child's school fees list.
Weekly homework tasks, will be added by staff and results communicated through Xuno reporting.
There are eight homework tasks per term and at times extra homework may be set on class work being covered.
The first task for Year 7-9 is due this week.
Due dates for each level:
Year 7 Homework will be due on Tuesday each week beginning week 2 of term.
Year 8 Homework will be due on Thursday each week beginning week 2 of term.
Year 9 Homework will due on Wednesday each week beginning week 2 of term.
Students in Year 7 will be completing the first of these during class time to help them learn how to navigate the site. The Year 8 and 9 students are familiar with the site due to the trial we conducted last year. New students will be shown how to navigate the site.
The SQUIZYA site also gives students and staff access to a variety of skill building extras.
If you would like to see your child's results in more detail, you can go to the following website: https://www.squizya.com/user/login and use your child's login details to access their results.
If any family has internet issues that will impact on their child completing homework on line please contact me at school to discuss options.
Noemi Dussin
Mathematics Coordinator

Acceptable Use Agreement for Digital Technologies.
If you and your children have not signed the agreement form sent out last year with school reports can you please do so as soon as possible. A copy of the agreement is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Scholastic Books
Students in Foundation to Year 7 will receive Scholastic Book order forms throughout the year. There is no obligation to buy any books. A percentage of book sales go to the school to purchase library and classroom resources. All orders need to be completed online through LOOP. Issue 1 orders need to be completed by Friday, 14h February. Any payments need to be made online, no payment will be accepted at Boort District School. If you are having difficulty, please contact Val Henderson or Vikki Lanyon in the Library.

SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked **O**nline **O**rdering & **P**ayment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

GET IT ON Google play
Download on the App Store

BOORT DISTRICT SCHOOL

Parents' Club

Alone we can do so little – Together we can do so much

Monday 3rd February 2020

Dear Families,

We are very pleased to announce that our biennial fete will be held on FRIDAY 20th MARCH 2020!! The event will be held on school grounds from 3:30pm onwards and EVERYONE is welcome – so please let your extended family, neighbours, friends and community members know about this wonderful event for our school. The theme this year is 'Everything French' so there will be something for everyone to enjoy!!

The fete is our biggest fundraiser, with previous events continually raising in excess of $10,000 which goes directly to BDS Parents' Club. Our committee then spends 100% of these funds on projects and/or purchases which directly benefit our students and staff.

We are hoping that our school community will be able to provide some assistance and donations over the next seven weeks whilst preparations are underway. These may include:

- **Donations of plants, succulents, pots, etc. for the 'plant sale'.**
- **Donations of unwanted household items, books, etc. for the 'jumble sale.'**
- **Donations of cakes/slices/biscuits/etc. for the 'cake stall.'**
- **Donations of craft, knitting, sewing, etc. for the 'craft stall.'**
- **Working bee in the kitchen to prepare food.**
- **Assistance setting up and packing up the fete.**
- **Assistance for one hour at the fete (roster will be circulated).**

Further information will be provided over the coming weeks as to where/when/how these donations can be provided. We thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any suggestions, questions or would like to assist the organizing committee with our 'Everything French Fete' then please contact Kathryn Lanyon on 0427 288 889.

Madeleine Scott
BDS Parents' Club President

Kathryn Lanyon
Fete Organiser

France Trip

When in France we went to Paris, Saverdun and to southern France to a town called Foix. We started in Paris where we saw many famous attractions like La Tour Eiffel, L'Arc de Triomphe, Le Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral and more.
After Paris, we travelled to Saverdun where we stayed in a nearby farm and participated in workshops for painting, cooking and drawing. We also took bus trips to nearby towns and learnt more about the area.
While in Foix we have experienced French life with host family who have looked after us for two weeks. We have attended school in Foix with them which is very different from our school here in Boort. There are LOTS more people and the days are longer. We start at 8am and finish at 5pm and the periods go for an hour.
We really enjoyed our time in France.
Thank you Madame Siân and Madame Chantal for giving us this opportunity.
Amy

Ville de Foix
1 h •

🇦🇺🇫🇷Le collège Lakanal accueille en ce moment des jeunes australiens venu en France pour leur voyage de fin d'année (l'été va commencer dans hémisphère Sud). Accompagnés de leurs camarades fuxéens, ils ont été accueilli à la mairie ce matin et ont découvert les grands principes du fonctionnent de la municipalité de Foix.

Schools' Privacy Policy – Department of Education

The Department has developed a new Schools' Privacy Policy and related documents for all Victorian government schools. The Department of Education and Training (which includes all Victorian government schools, central and regional offices) values the privacy of every person and is committed to protecting information that schools collect.

All staff, service providers (contractors) and agents, (whether paid or unpaid) of the Department, and this Victorian government school (our school), must comply with Victorian privacy law and this policy.

In Victorian government schools the management of 'personal information' and 'health information' is governed by the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) (collectively, Victorian privacy law).

This policy explains how our school collects and manages personal and health information, consistent with Victorian privacy law.

Current version of this policy

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to take account of new laws and technology and the changing school environment when required. Please ensure you have the current version of this policy.

Definitions

Personal information is information or opinion, whether true or not, about a person whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion – that is recorded in any form. For example, a person's name, address, phone number and date of birth (age). De-identified information about students can also be personal information.

Health information is information or opinion about a person's physical, mental or psychological health or disability, that is also personal information – whether in writing or not. This includes information or opinion about a person's health status and medical history, immunisation status and allergies, as well as counselling records.

Sensitive information is information or opinion about a set of specific characteristics, including a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions or affiliations, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, sexual preferences or practices, or criminal record. It also includes health information.

What information do we collect?

Our school collects the following type of information:

- information about students and their family, provided by students, their family and others
- Information about job applicants, staff, volunteers and visitors; provided by job applicants, staff members, volunteers, visitors and others.

How do we collect this information?

Our school collects information in a number of ways, including:

- in person and over the phone: from students and their family, staff, volunteers, visitors, job applicants and others
- from electronic and paper documentation: including job applications, emails, invoices, enrolment forms, letters to our school, consent forms (for example: enrolment, excursion, Student Support Services consent forms), our school's website or school-controlled social media
- through online tools: such as apps and other software used by our school
- Through any CCTV cameras located at our school.

Collection notices

When our school collects information about you, our school takes reasonable steps to advise you of certain matters. This includes the purpose of the collection, and how to access, update and correct information held about you. For information about students and their families, a collection notice is provided to parents (or mature minor students) upon enrolment.

Unsolicited information about you

Our school may receive information about you that we have taken no active steps to collect. If permitted or required by law, our school may keep records of this information. If not, we will destroy or de-identify the information when practicable, lawful and reasonable to do so.

Why do we collect this information?

Primary purposes of collecting information about students and their families

Our school collects information about students and their families when necessary to:

- educate students
- support students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfil legal requirements, including to:
  - take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to students, staff and visitors (duty of care)

- make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities (anti-discrimination law)
- provide a safe and secure workplace (occupational health and safety law)
- enable our school to:
- communicate with parents about students' schooling matters and celebrate the efforts and achievements of students
- maintain the good order and management of our school
- enable the Department to:
- ensure the effective management, resourcing and administration of our school
- fulfil statutory functions and duties
- plan, fund, monitor, regulate and evaluate the Department's policies, services and functions
- comply with reporting requirements
- Investigate incidents in schools and/or respond to any legal claims against the Department, including any of its schools.

Primary purposes of collecting information about others

Our school collects information about staff, volunteers and job applicants:

- to assess applicants' suitability for employment or volunteering
- to administer employment or volunteer placement
- for insurance purposes, including public liability and WorkCover
- to fulfil various legal obligations, including employment and contractual obligations, occupational health and safety law and to investigate incidents
- to respond to legal claims against our school/the Department.

When do we use or disclose information?

Our school uses or discloses information consistent with Victorian privacy law, as follows:

1. for a primary purpose – as defined above
2. for a related secondary purpose that is reasonably to be expected – for example, to enable the school council to fulfil its objectives, functions and powers
3. with notice and/or consent – including consent provided on enrolment and other forms
4. when necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to:
   - a person's life, health, safety or welfare
   - the public's health, safety or welfare
5. when required or authorised by law – including as a result of our duty of care, anti-discrimination law, occupational health and safety law, reporting obligations to agencies such as Department of Health and Human Services and complying with tribunal or court orders, subpoenas or Victoria Police warrants
6. to investigate or report unlawful activity, or when reasonably necessary for a specified law enforcement purpose, including the prevention or investigation of a criminal offence or seriously improper conduct, by or on behalf of a law enforcement agency
7. for Departmental research or school statistics purposes
8. to establish or respond to a legal claim.

A unique identifier (a CASES21 code) is assigned to each student to enable the school to carry out its functions effectively.

Student transfers between Victorian government schools

When a student has been accepted at, and is transferring to, another Victorian government school, our school transfers information about the student to that school. This may include copies of the student's school records, including any health information.

This enables the next school to continue to provide for the education of the student, to support the student's social and emotional wellbeing and health, and to fulfil legal requirements.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN is the national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, in reading, writing, language and numeracy.

When a student transfers to another Victorian government school, their NAPLAN results can be transferred to that next school.

Additionally, a student's NAPLAN results can be provided to the student's previous Victorian government school to enable that school to evaluate their education program.

Responding to complaints

On occasion our school, and the Department's central and regional offices, receive complaints from parents and others. Our school and/or the Department's central or regional offices will use and disclose information as considered appropriate to respond to these complaints (including responding to complaints made to external organisations or agencies).

Accessing your information

All individuals, or their authorised representative(s), have a right to access, update and correct information that our school holds about them.

Access to student information

Our school only provides school reports and ordinary school communications to parents who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information must be made by making a Freedom of Information (FOI) application through the Department's Freedom of Information Unit (see below).

In some circumstances, an authorised representative may not be entitled to information about the student. These circumstances include when granting access would not be in the student's best interests or would breach our duty of care to the student, would be contrary to a mature minor student's wishes or would unreasonably affect the privacy of another person.

Access to staff information

School staff may first seek access to their personnel file by contacting the principal. If direct access is not granted, the staff member may request access through the Department's Freedom of Information Unit.

Storing and securing information

Our school takes reasonable steps to protect information from misuse and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification and disclosure. Our school stores all paper and electronic records securely, consistent with the Department's records management policy and information security standards. All school records are disposed of, or transferred to the Public Records Office Victoria, as required by the relevant Public Records Office Standard.

When using software and contracted service providers to manage information, our school assesses these according to the appropriate departmental processes. One example of this is that staff passwords for school systems are strong and updated on a regular basis, consistent with the Department's password policy.

Updating your information

We endeavour to ensure that information about students, their families and staff is accurate, complete and up to date. To update your information, please contact our school's general office.

More information

Information for parents.

Translations

FOI and privacy

To make a FOI application contact:

Freedom of Information Unit

Department of Education and Training
2 Treasury Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002
(03) 9637 3961
foi@edumail.vic.gov.au

For more information about FOI, see freedom of information requests.

If you have a query or complaint about privacy, please contact:

Knowledge, Privacy and Records Branch

Department of Education and Training
2 Treasury Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002
(03) 8688 7967
privacy@edumail.vic.gov.au

For Review

This policy is centrally reviewed and updated, so always use the link to the Schools' Privacy Policy on the DET website to ensure parents have access to the most current version.

This version – From website May 2018

Acceptable Use Agreement for Digital Technologies

FAMILY AGREEMENT

I have carefully read the *Acceptable Use Agreement for Digital Technologies* and discussed this with my son/daughter/children. We understand the significance of the expectations and agree to abide by them. We are aware that a breach of these expectations could result in digital privileges being suspended or revoked. We understand that there are actions and consequences established within the Boort District School **Student Engagement Policy** if behaviour is inappropriate.

Student Name	Year Level	Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to the Boort District School office by the end of the first full week of the 2020 school year. Students will not have access to the school network if the form is not completed by Monday 2nd March. Only complete one form per family.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TENNIS COACHING WITH PETER BEWLEY

Tennis Coaching with Peter Bewley will once again be offered during Term One 2020 in Boort – from Wednesday 12th/Thursday 13th February 2020 through to Wednesday 18th/Thursday 19th March (6 weeks). For further information or to provide names, please make contact with Alister McDougal on 54 552 595 or 0427 221 098.

Cut-off date to give names will be Saturday 8/02/2020.

Evening program

Knowing your Teenager

Boort

Parenting teenagers is not easy, it requires creativity, determination and patience! It's a tough phase for everybody, but you're not alone.

Join other parents and carers in this workshop that aims to provide information, improve understanding and explore strategies that focus on the strengths and challenges of this stage of development

Term 1, 2020

When:	Wednesday 5th February 2020
Time:	Arrival and registration 5.45pm Session 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Where:	Room 21, Boort District School, Malone Street, Boort
Cost:	Free
Child Care:	Sorry, no childcare provided
Facilitators:	CCS Family and Relationship Services

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to start date. Please register early

CCS Family & Relationship Services

For bookings and enquiries contact Loretta on Ph: 5455 2716

NDCH

Northern District Community Health

NDCH-your first port of call in the pursuit of good health!

5 SUNSMART Tips for your Family

SunSmart starts with parents
Be a role model and make sure you are putting sunscreen also. Children are 16 times more likely to put sunscreen on after seeing their parents do so.

Use UV reminders
Check the sun protection times each day by using the FREE SunSmart app.

Buy SunSmart clothing
Broad brimmed hats are best. Long sleeve tops, high necklines, longer skirts and pants can protect your children from the sun. Look for lightweight and breathable fabrics.

Sunscreen: Choose it and use it
Apply 30 SPF (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen each morning. Reapply before going outside and after swimming.

Keep SunSmart clothing, hats and sunscreen in plain sight
Keep hats and sunscreen next to the door so that is easy to see when going outside.

Don't forget to SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK & SLIDE

Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide

For more information visit: https://www.sunsmart.com.au/about/media-campaigns/current-campaigns/pelindas-story/sun-protection-tips-for-families

www.ndch.org.au

SWIM BIKE RUN

IT'S BACK!! The Voyage Fitness Riverside Tri is coming to Swan Hill again on **February 15th & 16th 2020.** The **Mini Tri** will again take place on the Saturday evening from 5pm. This event consists of a 50m swim, 2km ride and an 800m run which can be completed individually or as a team. Saturday night will also include the Chances For Children Bike Ride and various food vendors including Murray Mallee Wood Fired Pizzas, Hold My Buns and the Frosty Monkeys as well as live music on the Saturday night by Toli Music. Sunday will include the Sprint and Short distance triathlons which can be completed either as an individual or as a team, as well as the 5km, 15km fun run/walk and **THE NEW half marathon event**. With $500 CASH up for grabs, plenty of FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES on both Saturday and Sunday, and loads of fun to be had, there is something for everyone! Find us on facebook @riversidetri or go to www.riversidetri.com.au

student exchange AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience for the whole family

Welcome a new family member into your home

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED 2020

- ✓ Experience a foreign culture firsthand
- ✓ Be exposed to a new language at home
- ✓ Rediscover and share the beauty of Australia
- ✓ Develop friendships that last a lifetime

We have a wonderful group of students arriving in May, July and August 2020 for 3, 5 or 10 months and are excitedly waiting to hear news of their host family in Australia.

All students have a wide range of interests and hobbies.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today
1300 135 331 or info@studentexchange.org.au

www.studentexchange.org.au/hosting

experienceiseverything

Media Release:

NDCH

Thursday, 30 January 2020

LGBTIQA+ Pride Event for Community Health

Northern District Community Health and Quambatook Silo Cinemas are to partner on a film event that celebrates LGBTIQA+ communities, diversity and inclusion. NDCH's recent application for funding through the State Government's Pride Events and Festivals Fund was successful. Minister for Equality Martin Foley announced more than $150,000 in funding for 45 community events and festivals.

"By supporting these pride events and festivals," Mr Foley said, "we're sending a loud message that in Victoria who you are is not only good enough, it is worth celebrating."

Planning for the NDCH & Quambatook Silo Cinemas event will begin very soon with the event to include an Australian film that celebrates diversity and be open to everyone to attend. Community members will be invited to participate in the planning to ensure the event includes the people it is celebrating. The hope is to increase community support and awareness, celebrate diversity, build resilience, and break down stigma that leads to discrimination. The film event will be in addition to upcoming Quambatook Silo Cinema events, which have been running successfully for several years now.

"We have marriage equality now," NDCH CEO Mandy Hutchinson said, "but we still have a lot to do to remove discrimination. Supporting and celebrating our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual communities is an important part of our work in community health. Rural areas are home for LGBTIQA+ people and we want current and future generations to feel safe and included, and whilst there has been a shift in the right direction there's still a way to go. Everybody deserves to feel safe in their community, family, sporting clubs, workplaces, and townships."

Other successful events across Victoria include Minus 18's ground-breaking Queer Formal, the Geelong Pride Film Festival, Gippsland Pride's Initiative 2020 Pride Gala, and the Ballarat Frolic Festival. "To be successful among some pretty amazing events and festivals across the state, is very exciting," NDCH CEO Mandy Hutchinson said.

"We know from listening to LGBTIQA+ people in rural and regional Victoria that these events are a sign of hope for those experiencing discrimination and isolation," Mr Foley said. "And we're proud to support them."

Media contact: Mandy Hutchinson 5451 0200