### MAY

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<td>BER Foyer 9.00am</td>
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<td>8th</td>
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<td>Keys Please Forum for Year 10 students 9.15am</td>
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<td>Look After Your Mates session for Year 11's</td>
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<td>College Council &amp; sub committees 7pm</td>
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<td>14-16th</td>
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<td>17th</td>
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<td>Primary Division Cross Country (selected students)</td>
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Above: Former student Ryan Gay and his University classmate, Jordan Cappy, came and spoke to our Year 9 students about life after school and the opportunities available in the ICT industry. Read more on page 11. Below: Cross country season is in full swing—read about the highlights of the recent run for our Year 5/6 students on page 14.
News from the Principal....

Creating Pathways
Rushworth P-12 College has a proud history of catering for the learning and future aspirations, education and career needs of our students and over the past week we have seen our current students participating in a number of forums to address their individual needs for the future.

Wednesday 1st May saw our Year 10 students and several Year 9 students join with Rochester Secondary College for an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Taster Day. The day provided our students with an incredible insight into the depth of careers available in the ICT industry and the number of pathways that they can undertake to get there. On behalf of the College I extend our thanks to the Cohuna Campaspe Local Learning & Employment Network for their coordination of the event and to Rochester Secondary College for their hospitality on the day. Thank you to Kerrie Raglus and Andrew Richardson for supporting our students on the day.

Thursday 2nd May provided our Year 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to attend and participate in the Careers Expo held in Melbourne. This was an outstanding opportunity for our students to gain a better understanding of careers available and the wide array of pathways that are possible to get students to their desired career. Thank you to Frankie O’Toole, Andrew Richardson and Annette Gould for accompanying our students.

As the year progresses we look forward to providing our students with further insight into possible career and further education options, stay tuned for more information about our Health & Community Services Taster Day coming up in Term 3.

NAPLAN
In the coming weeks all students in Years 3, 5, 6 and 9 will participate in The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This is an annual assessment of all students in these years levels and conducted in every school across Australia. This year the NAPLAN assessments will take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th May.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress.

NAPLAN tests give you information on how your child is progressing against national standards. This information allows for additional intervention if necessary to ensure your child progresses at a rate where they can fully participate in all aspects of the curriculum. NAPLAN does not replace, but rather complements, assessments run by your child’s classroom teacher throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the upcoming NAPLAN assessments please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Anzac Day Services
Rushworth P-12 College were proud participants in local Anzac Day services with numerous students representing the College. It seems that each year the number of individuals and families taking the opportunity to commemorate Anzac Day grows and it is a huge sign of the community respect for the individuals and families who have valiantly represented our country in numerous periods of conflict and peace keeping over the past 100 years. Thank you to the following students who officially represented our College at local Anzac Day Services:

- Tim Wall and Brodie Aburrow represented the College at the Rushworth Dawn Service
- Courtney Davidson and Ryan West represented the College at the Murchison Dawn Service
- Caitlin & Sam Brown represented the College at the Colbinabbin Anzac Day Service
- Blake Rosenberg represented the College at the Stanhope Anzac Day Service
Upcoming Events
As always the College is a hive of activity so why not consider how you can be involved as parents. Consider, becoming involved in one of these upcoming events:

- P-6 Mother’s Day stall to be held on Wednesday 8th May, 2.00pm to 3.00pm
- Primary Cross Country Championships on Friday 17th May
- Essendon Football Club players to visit Primary Students on Monday 13th May

For further information about how you can be involved please do not hesitate in speaking with our friendly office staff of Christine, Pat and Julie.

Kind regards, Brad Moyle, Principal

Worthy of Praise

- Jack Risstrom, Jimmii Clarke, Sarah Lange Richards, Dan Newbiggin, Matt Caton, Russell Anderson, Josh Rexhep and Chloe Fisher for their commitment to Cross Country training.
- Janelle Doolan - for always trying her hardest in all her classes.
- Lachie Sitters - for getting his homework and class work completed on time.
- Jayden Smith and Robert Newbiggin for the great job they are doing with Breakfast Club.
- Nikki Harvey – greatly improved attendance
- Brodie Aburrow (focus on VCE Studies)
- Emily Digney (improved effort with studies and homework)
- Andrew Gelsi (fast tracking effort)
- Grace McDonald (fast tracking effort)
- Emma Greenwood (fast tracking effort)

Calling all science buffs!

To all of you aspiring Scientists at Rushworth P-12 College, we’ll be running the International Science Competition in the first week of June this year. The competition is a pen and paper assessment of students knowledge of Scientific concepts.

Anyone can have a go at the competition, but it will cost you $7.00 to enter. Such activities are a great way to show potential employers your willingness to attempt new challenges.

I would strongly recommend anyone who has any interest in Science to have a go at the competition. If you are interested, please see Miss McMillan with your $7.00, BEFORE MONDAY 13TH MAY.

Depending on interest, we also plan to run the Maths Competition, which is in mid-August. Again it will be $7.00 – See Miss McMillan if you’re interested.

Thank you.
The Power of Sleep

Most of us understand the need for sleep and we generally get sufficient sleep each night. However we regularly see some students who don’t get enough sleep and who are not getting the most out of their education. The following information from Felstead Education, puts forward a number of powerful reasons why adolescents should get 9 – 10 hours of sleep per night.

Sleep, or the lack of it, is one of the most important physical and mental health issues confronting students today.

A good night's sleep lays the foundation for strong academic performance and sound physical and mental health.

Yet research shows that the majority of senior students receive inadequate amounts of sleep.

**Students who get sufficient sleep will reap the benefits including:**

- Being more alert in class
- Being better able to retain information and solve problems
- Enhanced creativity
- Greater energy levels and improved general health
- A lower propensity for illness and absenteeism
- Reduced risk of anxiety, depression and stress related disorders
- Reduced incidence of high-risk behaviour such as drug and alcohol abuse

As parents we are responsible for ensuring that our young children get enough sleep which then sets patterns of behaviour that guide them as they get older. When children try to ‘buck the system’ we, as parents, need to make sure that the routine continues to be followed. We need to check that our young people aren’t spending hours when they should be sleeping using the technology that many have in their rooms i.e. mobile phones, computers and even televisions.

**School Uniform** – Girls, and their parents, are reminded that leggings are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school, especially if worn just as leggings.

*Kathryn Bendall*
*Acting Assistant Principal/Student Welfare*
The Children’s Book Council of Australia

Children’s Book of the Year Award Short List 2013

“The Children’s Book Council of Australia celebrates and supports Australian authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults, primarily though the Children's Book of the Year Awards”.

Below is a list of books and authors that have been Short Listed for 2013. The winners of each category will be announced on the 16th of August, 2013. The ‘Children’s Book Week’ theme this year is ‘Read Across the Universe’. Dates for Book Week 2013 are from 17th to the 23rd of August, 2013.

Please note: All titles that are in **bold** print, we have in the College Library. For the titles that we do not currently have, they will soon be available too!!! :)

**Older Readers:**
- The Ink Bridge - Neil Brant
- Sea Hearts - Margo Lanagan
- The Shiny Guys - Doug McLeod
- Creepy & Maud - Dianne Touchell
- Friday Brown—Vikki Wakefield
- The Wrong Boy - Suzy Zail

**Younger readers:**
- Pennies for Hitler - Jackie French
- Other Brother - Simon French
- After - Morris Gleitzman
- Children of the King—Sonya Hartnett
- Pookie Aleera is Not My Boyfriend - Steven Herrick
- The Tender Moments of Saffron Silk—Glenda Millard & Stephen King

**Early Childhood:**
- The Terrible Suitcase - Emma Allen
- With Nan - Tania Coz
- The Pros & Cons of Being a Frog - Sue DeGen-
- Too Many Elephants in this House - Ursula Dubosarsky
- It’s a Miroocool! - Christine Harris
- Peggy - Anna Walker

Continued......
Library Learnings cont..

Picture Books:
- The coat - Ron Brooks
- Tanglewood - Vivienne Goodman
- Herman and Rosie - Gus Gordon
- Sophie Scott Goes South - Alison Lester
- Lightning Jack - Patricia Mullins
- A Day to Remember - Mark Wilson

Eva Pownall Award for Information Books:
- Python - Christopher Cheng
- Lyrebird! A True Story—Jackie Kerin
- Topsy-turvey World: How Australian Animals Puzzled Early Explorers - Kirsty Murray
- Portrait of Spain for Kids - Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art
- Tom the Outback Mailman - Kristin Weidenbach

All short listed books that we have in the College Library will be on display for all to see.
Pop in to have a browse of these wonderful resources that are written and illustrated by very talented Australians!!

Until next time, keep on reading!!!!
Library Manager - Kerri-Anne Nurse
Rushworth P-12 College were again very proud to participate in our local Anzac Day ceremonies throughout our district.

- Tim Wall & Brodie Aburrow represented the College at the Rushworth Dawn Service
- Blake Rosenberg represented the College at Stanhope
- Ryan West & Courtney Davidson braved the cool morning at Murchison to show their respect
- Caitlin & Sam Brown served us well at the Colbinabbin service.

College Captains, Tim & Brodie also spoke to the assembled crowd about “What ANZAC Day means to today”. Brodie and Tim have kindly given us a copy of their speech to share with our newsletter readers.

“Anzac Day is a day of respect, a time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country like Australia. Without the sacrifices of many men and women who have served in Australian forces the life of freedom and beauty that we know would not be possible.

Anzac Day is a day of remembrance and gratitude for lives lost, battles fought and hardships endured. It is a privilege to be part of an Anzac Day service and to share with the whole community feelings of gratitude and thankfulness for the selfless actions of others.

We do not know where our lives will take us, which countries we will visit and what jobs we will do to earn our living. All that we can be sure of is that we will be proud Australians who will take the legacy of those who have fought for our great country and do the best that we can do in their memory.

No matter where we stand on Anzac Day and how many years pass by Anzac Day will never lose its significance or importance to younger generations of Australians. Lest we forget”.

Above: Caitlin & Sam Brown prepare to lay the wreath at the Colbinabbin Anzac Service

Right: Blake Rosenberg with Stanhope RSL Secretary, George Gemmill, prior to laying the wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the College.
VCE Theatre Studies present...

Romeo & Juliet

Year 12 Theatre Studies performed their class production at the Senior Citizens Centre last week. Thirty students from the College formed the audience for their first performance whilst members of the Hostel and Nursing Home enjoyed the second performance. The students were involved in all aspects of the production from direction, make up and costume to the acting. A folio outlining the production process is an outcome that must be completed this term.

Congratulations to the students involved for their dedication and hard work and thank you to the students who watched the performance for their excellent behaviour as audience members. Thank you also to the Senior Citizens for allowing us to use the venue without a charge.
Woolworths Earn & Learn is on once again and Rushworth P-12 College have registered!

Starting Monday 8th April and ending Sunday 9th June.

Please collect the stickers from the check out after you do your shopping and drop them in the box at the Front office of the College.

We received quite a few new books for our Library last year.

It would be fantastic if we could get even more this year.

We look forward to your support........

P-12 College Student Speaks at Masonic Lodge.

Year 9 student, Blake Rosenberg was invited to present his speech entitled ‘The Spirit of Lark Force’ at Rushworth’s Jubilee Lodge No. 125, during a public ceremony on Thursday 18th April.

Blake’s well-delivered speech was very well received by the Masonic brethren and guests, prior to the Lodge’s moving ceremony of the ‘Unnamed Warrior’. A presentation of original footage of the Tomb of the Unnamed Warrior, both at Westminster Abbey in England, and at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, also added to the evening.

Blake is pictured here with Worshipful Master, Henry Hoorniweg (right) and Director of Ceremonies, Sid Sprague (left), whose father was a member of Lark Force, and who, although wounded, made it home to family.
On the 13th and 14th April 2013, Rushworth P-12 College had four equestrian riders compete at the Bendigo Interschool Equestrian Team Challenge. There were over 200 riders attending representing their schools.

Rushworth had four very dedicated and enthusiastic riders, Monique Silva, Natalie Zonneveld, Chantel Zonneveld and Sarah Lange-Richards. This is a huge two day event which covered many disciplines in the equestrian field. Dressage, show jumping, games, handy mount, smartest on parade, handler class (Led), Rider class, best educated mount and pleasure mount. The girls rode in their Year level so they were against other competitors who were in the same year level which is different from a normal show, where they compete in age groups and horse height groups.

There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes with making sure all the riding gear is clean and in good condition, horses well presented and the riders are happy.

Rushworth Fillies did Rushworth P-12 College proud, with Sarah Lange-Richards placing in 3 events, Natalie did very well on her mount, Lordy who is the grand young age of 31years! Lordy still had it in him and he certainly showed some of these younger horses how it’s done! Chantel and her pony looked a picture and even though they didn’t place, they still had a great time. Monique riding William Rain Dancer did a sterling job in the show jumping and this was Monique’s first big event.

Congratulations go to all 4 riders and their mounts, but a big thankyou go to the parents, Lisa, Sharyn and Kathryn. Without the mums, these girls wouldn’t have been able to ride.

**Leanne James**

The Bendigo Interschool Equestrian Team Challenge was a great experience for Sarah Lange-Richards, Monique Silva, Natalie Zonneveld and I, Chantel Zonneveld. There were a lot of competitors but it was fun. The set up was great, unfortunately I didn’t place but I tried my best and I was happy to represent the school as a Rushworth Filly. A big thankyou to Leanne James for organizing the saddle blankets, jumpers and ties and
also a thankyou to Mr Moyle for paying half of our entry fees, and also my mum Sharyn Zonneveld for putting the effort into taking me there. I will be happy to be a Rushworth Filly again next year. 

Chantel Zonneveld

Natalie Zonneveld, Monique Silva, Chantel Zonneveld and I, Sarah Lange-Richards had a good time. I was against Grade Fives, I got a third in pleasure mount, a sixth in handy mount and a seventh in best educated. Our team is called the Rushworth Fillies. Sharyn Zonneveld was the team manager and Leanne James was the Organiser of the team. She got us the saddle blanket, brow band and our numbers. 191 was my number. I road Zip me up plaudit or Snips my pretty girl. I would like to say thanks to Kathryn Lange, Mr Moyle, Leanne James and Snips

Sarah Lange-Richards

Former student Ryan Gay returns

On Wednesday the 27th of April, Ryan Gay, a past Rushworth P-12 College student and DUX recipient, and Jordan Cappy, a fellow university student, came to speak with the Year 9 class about IT, University life, learning and how doing what you love can actually make you money!

Ryan and Jordan told the Year 9 class their story from the classroom, applying through VTAC for a university position, being immersed in the university life and striving to succeed it the IT world. Both boys are currently completing a double degree at La Trobe University in Bendigo, majoring in Marketing with a Bachelor of Business. They have also been selected for the Industry Based Learning Program (IBL) which is a placement program offered to students in IT and Engineering courses at the Melbourne and Bendigo campuses. It allows students to spend up to ten months in industry, gaining valuable workplace experience.

As a work integrated learning initiative, this program not only offers you the opportunity of paid employment, but you will also gain credit towards your degree. Ryan is currently completing his IBL at the Bendigo Bank head office. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about careers, university and life pursuits. Thank you to Ryan and Jordan for the fantastic opportunity.
Glenn Manton – National Youth Week

On Thursday 18th April, Glenn Manton visited Rushworth P-12 College for National Youth Week. The day started with a cooked breakfast for all students in Year 11 and 12 and staff. Mr Moyle (pictured at right) cooked a lovely breakfast of bacon and eggs which went down very well with students and staff alike.

Ms O’Toole and Ms McIntosh did a sterling job making hot chocolates and cappuccino on our coffee machine, for staff and students.

After breakfast, the Year 11 and 12 students spent most of the day with Glenn Manton, co-founder of Whitelion who is one of Australia’s most regarded adolescent motivators.

Glenn’s youth based work is complemented by his degree in Education (RMIT), teaching background, mentoring aptitude and philanthropic commitment.

Glenn conveys the importance of developing three fundamental ingredients of life...

- An evolving knowledge of self.
- Thoughtful communication.
- Healthy relationships.

The day went well with students participating in activities, listening to Glenn and his life experiences. Glenn covered issues such as depression, anxiety, relationships, where to go for help, to be true to yourself.

Both students and staff who attended enjoyed Glenn’s enthusiasm, his stories and Glenn touched on deep and meaningful issues which affect young people today.

Leanne James, School Nurse Educator
GAPBREAK 2014 - WORK OR VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL!

Antipodeans Abroad would like to extend an invitation to all your Year 11 and 12 students to our upcoming Online Information Night next month. Partnering with local communities in over 15 different countries around the world, we are excited to launch our newest placements.

MOZAMBIQUE: Marine Conservation & Care Work While Mozambique is emerging as one of Africa's top tourist destinations, there are plenty of opportunities for helping hands to discover the benefits of marine conservation and caring for children affected by the civil war. One of the reasons we are most excited about the Mozambique placement is the opportunity for our volunteers to get their PADI Open Water Scuba Diving qualification as part of the program, and then swim with the Whale Sharks!

USA, CANADA & JAPAN: Ski & Snowboard Instructors Get paid to ski or snowboard. Antipodeans Ski & Snowboard brings you the ultimate full season ski or snowboard course. Partnering with the world’s top ski resorts on the placement provides instructor training, certification and a guaranteed ski or snowboard job offer. You can step straight into a ski school, earn money, and start living the dream! Let me encourage you to circulate this to your students and let them know about our upcoming GapBreak Information Night, where students and parents can find out more about Mozambique and our 18 other placements available.

ONLINE Information Evening by Antipodeans Abroad
Date: Tuesday 14th May  Time: 6:00-7:00PM (Sydney time)  Location: Online
Register here today!
Our Information Nights are a great source of insight into what it looks like to take a break from studying after 13 years of schooling, to understand a little more deeply about the positive impact volunteering can have, meet a returned volunteer, and to ask as many questions as needed.

Visual Arts and Graphic Design Students

La Trobe University Bendigo is holding an intensive, but enjoyable 2 day (Visual Arts) / 3 day (Graphic Design) folio preparation program for year 11 & 12 students wishing to enter university. On completion you will have the skills required to build an impressive professional portfolio, and be able to approach a university pre-selection interview with confidence. Packed with course specific interview tips and other valuable information you will maximise your chances of success. Meals and supervised accommodation included.

For further information and registration forms please email Jennifer – visualarts@latrobe.edu.au

Kerrie Raglus, Student Pathways
Sports Report - Cross Country

Year 5/6 competed at Princess Park, Shepparton on the 1st of May 2013 - below are some of their recounts.

I competed in the cross-country at Princess Park Shepparton in red 12/13 age group. There were more than 11 schools and more than 80 people in my age group. It was tough competing against Pheobe but I had fun anyway. She did very well and it turns out that I placed second and by the time I got around half the track I was really puffed out. I went to walk and then I felt like I was going to faint so I kept running. When I got back to the oval everyone was cheering. I ran through the finish line and I got handed an orange sheet that I had to take to these people to tell them my placing. I walked back to Christine and Mr Deledio and Christine took my photo. I ran to the other side of the track to cheer Pheobe on and she did really well. After Josh, Jack, Imogen, Sarah and Tanika had run their race we were so lucky and went to Kids Town. It was really fun we played tiggy, went on the Giant’s swing, the wizzi-dizzis, the slides and then the swings. Mr Deledio asked us all if we would like ice-cream and coke from Macca’s and of course we all said yes! He said if we leave now you all can have one… so we jumped on the bus again and went to McDonald’s. After that we headed back to school on the bus. It was a really fun day with my friends and we all had heaps of fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Chantel Zonneveld Grade 6

On Wednesday 1st of May 2013, on a very nice sunny day, Sarah, Tanika, Jack, Declan, Chantel, Imojen, Pheobe, Josh, Chloe and I went to the cross country event in Shepparton at Princess Park. Chloe didn’t compete and came along as our supporter. Tanika and I were called up for 11’s red group. This meant you could jog the entire 3km race and sometimes walk. I came 13th. After that I felt like I could faint but I was okay. It was a fun day out with my friends.

By Sarah Lange-Richards Grade 5

On the 1st of May some of the grade 5 & 6 boys and girls went to Princess Park in Shepparton. There were 9 kids from Rushworth P-12 and Chantel came 2nd, Sarah came 13th, Jack came 5th, Tanika came 4th, Imojen came 5th, Phoebe came 70th but she did a great job still. Three people are going to go to the next level. After the Cross Country we went to Kids Town and went to McDonalds and got a soft serve ice-cream in a cone and a small coke. Mr Deledio and Christine came with us for the day and due to calling into Macca’s, Mr Deledio’s wallet is now a little lighter. Thanks Mr D! On the way home Chantel, Josh, Jack, Declan and I played truth or dare on the bus. Then when we got back to school we told Mrs Weeks all about our day and got to spend the last few minutes on our netbooks.

By Chloe Jade Laurie Grade 6

Today we went to Princess Park in Shepparton to the cross country running event. I ran 2km and got 5th place. Everyone clapped and cheered for me as I finished my race. Our school had 7 people run. I ran in the red 9/10 age group. Everyone tried really hard and went really well. After we did cross country we went to Kids Town and Macca’s on the way home. After that we went back to school and told everyone about our day out.

By Imogen Giffening
Other Upcoming Events:

⇒ Friday 10th May           Grade 3 - 6 Interschool Athletics
⇒ Tuesday 21st May          GMDSSV Senior Winter Sports (Years 9-12)
⇒ Thursday 30th May          GMDSSV Interschool Cross Country (Secondary)
⇒ Tuesday 18th June         GMDSSV Junior Winter Sports (Years 7-8)

Amanda Cray, PE Coordinator

## Accessing the Rushworth P-12 College Twitter messages

Visit [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) - Click “SIGN UP”

When setting up your account and profile you can choose to skip the steps such as “INTERESTS” or “FRIENDS”, etc.

You will be asked to verify your twitter account. This is done by a link that is sent through to the email account you used in the set-up process.

Click the “WHO TO FOLLOW” link in the left hand column of your twitter homepage.

Search for “rushworthp12college”

When you have located the school, click the “FOLLOW” button.

Once you have signed up and verified you are ready to adjust your settings to follow the school tweets. You can choose to follow the school on your computer, however if you really want the functionality twitter can provide you need to set up mobile notifications.
Proudly supporting Rushworth P-12 College

We’re supporting you and your community

Call in and see us at
23 High Street,
Rushworth
or phone
5856 2122.

Disclaimer

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, and Rushworth P-12 College do not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department or College for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements.

If you have anything you would like to have published in our college newsletter please email articles to:
rushworth.p12@edumail.vic.gov.au

Community Forum

A conversation about substance abuse and family violence in our community

For all community residents, parents and youth of all ages to be better informed about substance abuse and family violence in our community. This free forum will be a chance to hear from Les Twentyman and other keynote speakers, and have your questions discussed with an expert panel.

Wednesday 15th May
6.30pm-9.30pm
Rochester CVCC
Rochester Secondary College
Edwards Street, Rochester

Free

For further information and RSVP, contact Allannah Jenkins, Flood Support Worker on 5484 4465 or 0467 779 700
There's a massive difference between being a mum (or dad) and being a parent.

‘Parenting’ is a twentieth century term that suggests that raising kids is a gender neutral activity. It’s a managerial, almost scientific term that has given rise to a huge industry. In Western countries, millions of parenting books and magazines are sold each year, parenting columns appear in most newspapers, and new television series appear every year focused on the modern notion of parenting.

The problem is that when we refer to ‘parenting’ we tend to remove the heart and emotion from the task. We obscure the fact that it is mothers and fathers who are doing the child-rearing, rather than mere parents.

Parenting means different things to different people. For many people the term ‘parenting’ is code for behaviour management – particularly taming toddlers and their close cousins, teenagers. A broader and more thoughtful definition includes teaching kids positive values and attitudes, developing a range of skills that equips them for adulthood, and ultimately preparing kids to be parents themselves one day.

I often point out to audiences in parenting presentations how being related to our kids can stop us from being great parents. We all know how our neighbour’s kids should be raised, but somehow it’s harder to raise our own. That’s because the hopes and dreams of motherhood (and fatherhood) can somehow get in the way of rational decision-making.

Mothering is emotional and instinctive

And that’s the thing. Being a mother is not always rational, as parenting is often made out to be. There is a great deal of emotion attached to the role of mother. This emotion drives you to fight hard to protect your children, work assiduously to right any wrongs on their behalf, and exhaust yourself looking after their physical and psychological well-being.

Being a mother is instinctive. In the information age we need to be careful we don’t to deny the intuitive nature that mothers bring to their child-rearing. The nature of mothering infers nurturance, protectiveness and longevity. Mothering is relational rather than rational. You may grow out parenting by making yourself redundant but mothering is something you never grow out of. You are a mum for life.

Kids want their mothers, not their parents

Kids of all ages say, “That’s my mum!”

They don’t say, “That’s my parent!” (They may say that when they are annoyed or embarrassed by you, but that’s another story.)

Boys and girls of all ages generally love their mothers unconditionally, whereas they merely put up with their parents, particularly during adolescence. They can live without their parents, or so they think, but deep down they know they can’t live without the one person who has a blind spot for them, overlooking all their faults. That person, of course, is their mother.

When kids of all ages get into emotional difficulty or their life becomes too hard, they generally go looking for their mums. They only look for their ‘parent’ when they want some money, or want someone to get them out of a jam!

Raising kids is about mothering (and fathering) ... rather than parenting. That’s why we have Mother’s Day (and Father’s Day) rather than Parent’s Day.

I hope you have a good one!

For ideas to help you be a great mum subscribe to Happy Kids my weekly email guide at Parentingideas.com.au.