Is the Billanook website part of your regular internet routine? We regularly update the website with useful information about the College. Find out what’s going on with our Latest News section or update your details through the Community section. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. We’d love to stay connected with you.

CONNECT WITH US!
As a member of Round Square, Billanook students are provided with the option of experiencing Annual National and International Conferences and exchanges. These experiences provide our students with the opportunity to hear world-class speakers, engage in global debate, experience adventure host-country style and make a significant contribution to local service projects, inspiring them to be leaders of change in their own communities.

This year’s conference in Kenya was all that and more. Students and staff returned with stories of providing a meal for children in the Kibera slum, building a library in another part of Nairobi and seeing first-hand the realities of a life so different from their own. Following the conference the final stage of the experience was a two-day visit to Uganda.

However, you don’t come back from Africa unchanged. Reflecting on their experience, a month or so after being back home, there’s a sense that our students carry the weight of their exposure with less ease than they might have anticipated. They have seen first-hand the unbridled happiness of people who own little more than what they stand up in, and that brings into question the truth and degree of happiness of their own relatively well-resourced lives and the lives of those around them.

Photos courtesy of Courtney Wilkinson, Year 11, and Mrs Robyn Green

“My trip to Kenya highlighted the incredible happiness of people surrounded by poverty.”

Alex Martin-Butchard Year 11
“t has made me realise how grateful and thankful I should be for my family and friends, as they are so important and mean the world to me.”

“I am blessed for having the amazing education I have - every child in Africa wishes they could have a proper education.”

“ost importantly, I want to thank my amazing parents who have given me this life-changing experience. The things I have seen and learnt are simply indescribable.”
Alice Murphy Year 10
Work Experience at the Royal Melbourne Zoo

“Doing work experience at the Zoo was an amazing experience. It was worth all the work and the interviews it took to get in. If I could do it all again I would without a doubt.”

Nathaniel Davidson Year 10
Work Experience at the Amazing Amazon Pet Shop

“I went to the Amazing Amazon Pet Shop for my work experience and really enjoyed interacting with all the reptiles, fish and people. This week helped me to confirm my passion to work in this field.”

Students in Years 10 and 11 have been out on EXIT Week, either participating in a Community Service Placement, Work Experience, Farm Placement or involved in an Outdoor Education EXIT.

Students are able to gain hands-on experience of work within their chosen field, experience the benefits of giving back to their community and challenge their resilience in the outdoors - all a part of education Beyond Academic Excellence.

Are you able to offer students a Work Experience, Community Service or Farm Placement? We would love to hear from you.

If you can help please contact
Robyn Green:
Tel: 9724 1154
e: robyn.green@billanook.vic.edu.au
The spirit of House Swimming is alive and well. Students from Years 7-12 braved the cool summer night.

House Athletics Carnival Results:

1st - Hovell 931  
2nd - Weeks 904  
3rd - WurundjerI 882  
4th - Walling 869  

Champion Swimmer  
Carly Robson  

House Spirit Award  
Trent Stanley  

Well done to all competitors!
Billanook’s Annual Thailand Service Project is nothing short of a life-changing experience. During November and December 2011, fourteen students and three staff were kissed by a baby elephant, travelled 1864 bends to get to Mae Hong Son in North Thailand, danced on a hilltop with local Karen Hills tribe folk, travelled by bamboo raft through limestone caves and visited a mountain village on the Burma border and temples in Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son. However the group’s biggest achievement was building a two room complex to house teenage boys at the House of Hope orphanage, and a shower/toilet block for orphaned children at PNDO.

Service to others at its absolute best!
Excited, elated, enthused and inspired...

describe our five delegates who attended the International Round Square Conference at Wellington College in England late last year. Mrs Belinda Vertriest, Head of Middle School, and Mrs Julie Taylor, Chair, SOSE, accompanied Chloe, Sashi, Colette, Natalie and Jaymee on this life changing experience.

The pre-conference tour through France also included delegates from South Africa, Canada, Cairns, Adelaide and Southport, many of whom became our close friends by the end of a week’s tour of Paris and the Loire Valley.

The cohort then travelled to London where they were transferred to Wellington College. The group arrived with 30 minutes’ notice to get changed into their school uniforms for the arrival of Queen Elizabeth II. Colette, one of Billanook’s delegates, was chosen to represent Billanook and meet the Queen. She chatted amicably with Prince Phillip and the Duke of York before the Queen, along with Prince Alexander and King Constantine of the Hellenes, officially opened the Conference.

The week-long conference included inspirational speakers, Olympians and Para-Olympians. Each of the speakers had a common message - have a go, value the support of those around you who will give you confidence, and believe in yourself.

We returned inspired for our future, and with so many close and new global friendships. The theme for the conference ‘Reaching beyond our limits’ was achieved by all.

Attending the International Round Square Conference was an amazing experience. Spending a week in Paris for the pre-conference tour was definitely a major highlight. It’s hard to believe that we saw famous monuments like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the l’Arc de Triomphe, as it was all over way too fast. Arriving at Wellington College in England was a real shock. The school was huge and, trust me, it was very easy to get lost. Staying in a boarding house with people you only just met was a challenge, but by the end of our stay we didn’t want to say goodbye. The highlight of the conference was being able to talk to people from all around the world and realise just how alike we all really are.

Chloe, Year 11

Attending the Round Square International Conference was truly amazing. It was definitely one of the best things I have ever done and I would encourage everyone to give it a go, as it is something you will never regret nor forget! We attended a pre-conference tour to Paris and that in itself was incredible! We managed to see and do so many amazing, once in a lifetime things in the one week. However my favorite things were the Eiffel tower, the shopping and the scenic bike ride. They were all astonishing activities that I was lucky enough to participate in. After spending an incredible week in Paris we attended the Round Square International Conference at Wellington College, England. The conference was so inspirational and I learnt so many valuable things that will take me a long way in life. Along with the lessons learnt I will never forget the amazing friends that I became so close to. I now have so many thrilling and extraordinary memories, and life-long friends that I will never forget. I feel so privileged that I was lucky enough to participate in this exciting trip and I would encourage everyone to attend a Round Square Conference. They are truly amazing!

Natalie, Year 10
I felt very honored to be chosen to attend the international Round Square Conference at Wellington College in Crowthorne, England. It was definitely a life-changing experience. The International Conference itself was on another level and cannot be compared to anything else I have ever experienced. I would highly recommend that everyone should take the opportunity and apply for such a unique trip. Billanook was lucky enough to attend the pre-conference “Ermitage” tour in Paris. Paris is truly beautiful and has a great vibe about it, the perfect location for everyone to get to know each other. Naturally the Eiffel Tower was breathtaking, but the true highlight for me during that week was when we travelled to the Loire Valley.

Colette, Year 10
2012 ROUND SQUARE ALUMNI PROJECT
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES

Would you be interested in:

> Travelling to Thailand
> Working hard for no pay
> Travelling with people you don’t know
> Getting your hands dirty
> Working in the heat
> Paying for your own airfare and accommodation
> Building much needed facilities for those in need

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

Billanook is looking to support an adult Round Square Thailand Service Project in July 2012. Places are limited and conditions apply.

For further information or to register your interest for the 2013 expedition, please contact Mrs Jane Yuille e: jane.yuille@billanook.vic.edu.au
For many the first day of Prep can be a little daunting, but our 2012 Prep class just took it in their stride. With 15 of our 4 Year Old Early Learning students coming on into Prep there was a definite sense of confidence and calm that permeated their first day.

Our new Prep teacher, Romy Smillie (Class of 2004), has settled well into her new role, having previously taught in Senior Primary.

The day concluded for our Preps with a celebratory party, marking a milestone for both our students and their families.
Well Done Team!

Relay for Life was chosen as the Round Square Alumni event of 2012.

The Round Square Alumni group brings together past students from schools all around Victoria who have been involved in Round Square events.

Students who had participated in projects, conferences and exchanges met for a fun-filled 24 hour walk around Albert Park Lake as part of team Round Square Alumni.

It was great to be a part of something bigger. The Round Square Alumni contributed nearly $1000 towards the $200,000 raised by the event for the fight against cancer.

As a team we covered 128km over the 24 hour period. It was a mighty effort, especially for those walking in the rain and walking at odd hours of the night.

Members from the Billanook community included Kerryn Boyle (Class of 2004), Jason Deacon (Class of 2004), Jarryd Solomon (Class of 2005) Hollie Smith (Class of 2005 and current staff member), Brodie Smith (Class of 2007), Tracey Smith (past parent), Alan Ross (former Principal), Helen Boyle (current staff member), Jane Yuille (current staff member), Robyn Angus (former Board member).

This will be an annual event, anyone interested in joining the 2013 team can contact Kerryn Boyle on kerryn.boyle@gmail.com

Kerryn Boyle, College Captain, 2004
Billanook’s Class of 2011 are to be commended for their excellent academic results.

An impressive 36.9% of our students were ranked amongst the top 20% of the entire state.

Our Dux, Ashleigh Kropp, achieved an ATAR score of 97.90, closely followed by Jessica Houghton (97.25), Yang Yejing (Joyce) 97.10, Rosie Hyslop 96.25, Jonathan Christie 96.20 and Alexandra Mitchell 96.10

We were delighted to welcome back all of our high achievers and acknowledge their achievements as part of the Induction Assembly earlier this year.

Congratulations to you all!

“I am very proud of what I achieved in 2011. I enjoyed many different aspects of Year 12 and the challenges associated with the year.”

Ashleigh Kropp, 2011 DUX
House Athletics Carnival Results:

1st – Wurundjeri  1347
2nd – Walling       1239
3rd – Hovell       1185
4th – Weeks        1178

Champion Athlete
Nick McGuire

New Records Set by:

Nick McGuire
Open 1500m, 4 min 22.00 sec

Luke Christiana
Open 100m, 11.14 seconds
Open 200m, 23.48 sec

Denise Lim
U/13 Discus, 21.74 m

Stephanie Bollaart
U/16 800m, 2 min 34.00 sec
After much deliberation Billanook’s 2011 Cardigan Rise vintage wine label has been selected. Congratulations to Carly Robson, Year 12, whose clever design depicting the metamorphosis of leaves into birds was chosen to appear on the 2011 vintage of Chardonnay and Shiraz.
BRIDGE AWARDS CEREMONY

A night to honour those who have given of their time, expertise and dedication.

The annual Bridge Awards Ceremony was held on 1 June to recognise members of the Billanook community.

The Awards provided a superb backdrop for the launch of the 2010 Cardigan Rise vintage. The night was a perfect pairing of fine food, wine and company.

Bridge Awards
Mrs Belinda Albury
Mr Richard Giles
Mrs Hilary Hall
Mr Lance Johns
Mr Matthew Rice
Ms Sandra Schwarz
Mr John Tresidder
Mrs Larraine Welsh

Fellow Awards
Mrs Helen Darvell
Mrs Lynne Kelly
Founders’ Day 2012
*Theme: Pioneers*

From singers to sportsmen and women, to Prime Ministers, Billanook students and staff dressed up to celebrate pioneers of all shapes and sizes.

The mood on Founders’ Day was electric as members of the Billanook community gathered to wish Billanook a very Happy 32nd Birthday and to celebrate a school that at its heart is a true pioneer.
2012 Australian Junior Chess Championships

Denise Lim (Year 7) and brother Ethan (Year 4) competed at this year’s Australian Junior Chess Championships, which Billanook hosted last year.

Denise took out the under 14 Girls’ title and Ethan finished as runner-up in the Under-10 open tournament.

Denise also holds the titles of Under-16 Girls’ Lightning Chess Champion and Under-16 Girls’ Problem Solving Champion.

We are going to keep a close eye on these two!

Billanook Chess Classic Series, Rounds 1 & 2

It was on for young and old during Rounds 1 & 2 of the 2012 Billanook Chess Classic Series, not that age matters when it comes to chess.

Tournament Dates:
Sunday 29 July Round 3
Saturday 25 August Round 4- Final

To register or for more information:
Northern Star Chess
Friends and local artists Hayden Daniel and Elise Brand worked collaboratively on their latest artistic venture.

Their joint exhibition at Burrinja Gallery in Upwey - Into the Wild - was a unique exploration of the human and animal worlds.

Elise and Hayden first featured in the VCE Vivid Visions exhibition at Burrinja Gallery in 2010, winning the award for Best Work in Show.

Hayden described his work as a snapshot of the often wild ideas that run through his head, expressed through a series of drawings and digital illustrations.

Elise explores the role of humans in the animal world and human-animal role swaps. Her detailed pencil works are illustrative and intricate.

Hayden is now a graphic design student and Elise a fine art student working in East Melbourne.
It is with sadness that the Billanook College community acknowledges the passing of one of its valued members – Robert (John) McArthur.

John and his wife Beverley were founding parents, with their sons Peter and Andrew, having attended the College in its early years. During this time John was Chair of the Education Committee and some years later joined the staff of Billanook as Assistant to the Founding Principal, Dr. Peter Harris.

John served as Executive Assistant to the Boards of Billanook College and Billanook Educational Services, and as Executive Officer to the Committee responsible for the appointment of the second Principal, Mr Alan Ross. John’s meticulous organisational skills, attention to detail and broad knowledge of the education system greatly assisted the College in the efficient running of its meetings and its maintenance of good governance.

Our sincere condolences to John’s wife Beverley, and children Peter, Andrew, Natalie and Elizabeth and their families.

David Webb, father of Chris (Class of 2005) and Danielle (Class of 2002), passed away on Good Friday 6 April, 2012.

Better known as Billanook’s ‘Apple Man’, David provided Billanook with a steady stream of fresh produce. He was also known for occasionally charming the Receptionists with a bright bunch of daffodils picked from his orchard.

He will be sadly missed but remembered as a wonderful gentleman, who always had a smile for everyone. Our thoughts are with his children and wife Pamela.
Billanook celebrates as its number of 2nd Generation students grows to over 29!

Students of Past Students

Top Row: Kienan Quenette-Phillips, Ashleigh Hodgson, Sally Curwood, Taylah Cole, Tahlia Handy
Middle Row: Sean Brooker, Cooper Bird, Teagan Hodgson, Jarrod Collinson, Amellia Wood, Alicia Simpson, Claudia Coll
First Row: Camden Hewitson, Zachary Bird, Brinn Hamley, Kayla Heyblok, Gabrielle Christou, Sophie Tridgell, James Stingel, Griffin Hamley, Isla Tridgell, Maya Fincher, Izaak Heyblok, Charles Mitchell

DROPPING INTO THE COLLEGE

Kana Kitazato, Class of 1999, whilst visiting her former Homestay mother and College Nurse, Catherine O’Halloran, dropped by Billanook to meet with the Principal, Roger Oates and Deputy Principal, Cheryl Mutabazi.

Kana reminisced about her time at the College, and her friends. Kana also presented Roger with a very kind cheque for the Billanook Building Fund, in recognition of her time at the College.
I've travelled the world, you could definitely say that! But the world is large, there is still much I haven't seen, cultures I haven't experienced, beers I haven't tasted and beaches I haven't sat on!

While I have seen much, I guess the things that I have appreciated most while being away are seeing the things that make me realise how lucky I am, being in the places where suffering has been great, places that remind me of the person that I am and the freedom that I get to enjoy every day.

I'm talking sitting at Lone Pine, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the site that saw the Allied troops win one of only a handful of battles in the fight for the Dardanelles, but that left Australia with the long lasting Legacy of the ANZACs - a legacy that would forge a Nation.

I'm talking driving the hundreds of kilometres that is the Western Front. From the Somme to Fromelles, appreciating the biggest battle of World War I, standing at Villers Bretonneux, the memorial site for the 52,000 Australians who lost their lives fighting with the Allies, continuing to forge our National Identity.

It's the Killing Fields and S-21 in Cambodia; Ground Zero in New York; it's reading the Memorial at Dachau (the world's first concentration camp) that simply says ‘Never Again’ in five different languages.

It's doing all those things and being in all those places that make me appreciate who I am, the nation I belong to and just how lucky ‘we’ are.

On my travels, I've bumped into Sarah Pant who also lives in London town (Class of 1999) and my brother in Beijing (Class of 2000). I currently live in London. I've also lived in France and I love it in London, but Australia will always be home!
Matt Redgewell

Class of 2001

After leaving Billanook Matt aspired to study Veterinary Science.

‘Unfortunately I did not meet the academic entry requirements upon finishing school - the degree is exceptionally competitive and applicants are required to have outstanding academic performance’.

Nonetheless Matt enrolled in a Bachelor of Science at The University of Melbourne in an attempt to improve his academic performance.

Upon graduating in 2005 Matt was still unsuccessful in his multiple applications to Veterinary Science. He decided to try a different strategy and commence a Master of Agribusiness at the University of Melbourne.

To his delight, after receiving a Diploma he was granted a place to study a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at James Cook University in Cairns. Matt will complete his final year of study in 2013.

Although I have taken the ‘path less travelled’ to achieving my dream, I would thoroughly recommend and encourage all students to work hard and be persistent in achieving your goals. I assure you, you will be rewarded for your time and effort.
Ben Lingard (Class of 2006) was one of only three field umpires appointed to the Eastern Football League (EFL) Division 1 Preliminary Final & Grand Finals for the 2011 season.

This completed a ‘full hand’ at the EFL – with Ben having already accomplished Divisions 4, 3, 2 & 1 Senior Grand Finals.

Ben felt “pretty chuffed” about his appointment – it was a fantastic reward for lots of hard work. Ben thanked Billanook College for giving him such a positive start in the Year 10 Umpiring Program whilst he attended Billanook.

During rounds four and five of the 2012 AFL season, 14 Billanook College students stepped out onto the field at the MCG and Etihad stadium to umpire the half time AusKick games. The Year 10 umpiring students have been learning how to be AFL umpires with the assistance of Neville Nash from AFL Victoria.
Rather than cashing in his life savings for a car in Year 12, Jared Kettle chose to invest in a video camera to shoot media studies films. Looking back he now shudders at that movie, but having that camera meant that Jared needed to go out and find work to pay for it.

After finishing school he emailed a number of production companies, getting a few mild responses before eventually hooking up with someone who would eventually become his business partner.

“I cut my teeth in the event industry and it was this real world learning that I found indispensable. I learnt everything from basic camera control to how to deal with many lighting situations, dealing with clients and being able to adapt to any given situation.”

During this time Jared was also studying digital television production at a specialist tertiary institution.

“Billanook had exposed me to a raft of experiences during my time there, and really helped lay the foundations for a successful career. Skills attained through things like the school production and media studies classes certainly gave me a leg up over my peers in the early stages of my tertiary education.”

Jared left Billanook to join one of the very first intakes at a brand new course run by Deakin University, studying film and digital media.

Jared worked with the likes of Claire Hooper, Josh Lawson, Damian Callinan, Marty Fields and many more. He was also provided with the opportunity to work on the Logies Red Carpet for two consecutive years.

After two years at Deakin Jared decided to defer his course to focus on work. As Creative Director he headed up the commercial arm of a developing business with clients such as Swisse Vitamins, The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, News Ltd (Masterchef Magazine), Premier Artists and Kenworth Trucks.

“These opportunities have seen me hanging out of helicopters in Hayman Island, shooting aerials of trucks on cattle farms in Far North Queensland, shooting some fantastic music videos and working with really wonderful talent.”

Jared has recently established a new business.

“It’s an exciting time as we sign more clients and have just successfully pitched for our first TVC (television commercial) which will air later this year.”

Jared is also currently working with Billanook College to develop a set of promotional videos.
Ten years since graduating from Billanook and how much has changed? Is everyone just the same as before, or are there new stories to hear?

The Class of 2001 had a chance to discover the answers to those questions and more as they celebrated their 10 Year Reunion on 3 September 2011.
It seems like in the blink of an eye our graduating Valedictorians are returning for their first year out reunion.

On Friday 18 November 2011 there was a great turnout from the class of 2010 in celebration of a year’s milestone.

Check out the Reunion Lost List at: > Click here

If you or someone you know is on the list please contact us to update your/their details.

Contact: georgie.bennett@billanook.vic.edu.au
9724 1178
Keira Mills and partner (Class of 2007) welcomed baby Niam Riko Caushllari into their lives in May 2010.

Claire Pasini (Class of 2000) and fiancé Trevor Ward welcomed Milla Elizabeth Pasini into the world on 31 October 2010.

“We can’t believe how quickly the time has flown and are looking forward to celebrating her second birthday this year!”

Baby Harmony Rose Holley was born on Saturday 30 July 2011 after a 50 hour labour!!

According to mum Chantal Holley (nee Clements Class of 1998) and husband Ben, “she is the light of our lives and a very placid and peaceful child”.

“We named her Harmony because of our love of music and singing.” Chantal says. “The name Rose is because it’s my favourite flower.”

Harmony, to the great delight of her parents, was recently announced as one of the five winners in the Bonds Baby Search 0-9 month category.
Tony D’Alberto, (Class of 2003), current V8 Super Car Champion married his bride Steffanie, at Stones Winery in the Yarra Valley on 16 July 2011. James Fleming, also Class of 2003, was the best man and Tony’s sister, Annie-May (current student), was a bridesmaid.

‘We had a brilliant day and went to Italy on our Honeymoon for three weeks.’

Brent Earney (Class of 1997) married Nicole at Nathania Springs on 30 July 2011. They celebrated with friends and family from near and far, as well as a large contingent of past Billanook students.

When Billanook strings tutor, Maggie, married Evan, there was a mini-reunion as four Billanook alumni celebrated the event with them.
Nick Wiltshire (Class of 2000) married Sarah Gilbert (Class of 2003) on 24 March 2012 on the Sorrento Ocean Beach with a reception to follow in a nearby cafe.

The guest list was full of ex Billanookians, with Jess Odlum, Michelle McMahon and Cathy Wyatt (all Class of 2003) as Sarah’s bridesmaids and Nick Odlum and Rob Wyatt (both Class of 2000) as Nick’s groomsmen.

The day was windy and cold but the rain held out and they stuck to their guns to have the ceremony on the beach.

Carlie Hindhaugh (Class of 2002) married partner of 6 years, Grant Burton on 10 December 2011. The ceremony was held at St Vincent’s Gardens in Albert Park, followed by celebrations with 75 guests at Belle Zain in Port Melbourne. Past students who attended the wedding were Lauren Capper, Jaclyn Sauvarin (now Keech) and Roslyn Eadie (now Reynolds). The happy couple honeymooned in Byron Bay.

Carlie and Grant are looking forward to enjoying married life and starting a family together in years to come.
On Sunday 25 September 2011 Belinda Harvey-Visser, nee Harvey married her “best friend” Colin.

“God must have smiled on us that day as the sun was shining and filling the Chapel at Nathania Springs in Monbulk as friends and family gathered waiting for us to arrive (a minor car issue resulting in my arriving 45 minutes late). However nothing could bring down my feeling of joy as I walked down the aisle towards my husband with my 13 year old son Jack to my left and my father to my right, both ready to give me away. “

Billanook’s Chaplain, Rev. Jennie Gordon, performed the ceremony. Belinda says “my face was sore from smiling so much, my feet were sore from wearing my shoes and yet I could not have asked for a better day.”

“It was amazing to be able to share this day with so many of my friends and family and we thank them all for their love and support.”

The beautiful grounds of Potters Receptions in Warrandyte were the setting for Rozz Reynolds’ (Class of 2002, formerly Eadie) fairytale wedding day. On 21 April, 2011, Rozz walked down the aisle to marry her partner of five years and best friend, Simon Reynolds. It was also a very special day for the Mother of the bride, former Billanook College Primary School teacher Helen Eadie.

Rozz’s bridal party included Carlie Burton (formerly Hindhaugh) from Rozz’s Class of 2002.

The happy couple spent their first moments as husband and wife dancing the night away with family and friends. Rozz and Simon had a blissful honeymoon in Tahiti.