Last year, the school was contacted by Mr Rick Tipping, the great-great grandson of Andrew Larkin, Principal of Moolap Primary School 1911-1916. Please see below a copy of the information he recently emailed, this seems very relevant at this time of the year. Copies of original documentation relating to the information below are available on the school’s website.

“As promised some information for Anzac Day, I have summarised the story of the Larkin boys below -

Rody Larkin

Rody Larkin was a student of Moolap PS because his father was the school principal for a time (and was principal when, at age 19, Rody enlisted for service in WW1).

Rody was born in 1906 and was third youngest of 9 children (my grandmother, Irene, was the eldest of the children).

Rody’s younger sister, Dora, is also on the register at Moolap. Rody’s brother, Patrick, enlisted on 16 September, 1914. He was 26. His brother, Martin, enlisted on 13 July, 1915, at age 28 and Rody himself enlisted just a few days later on 20 July 1915. He was just 19. There is much to be learned from a close reading of the personnel dossiers of each of the boys. Too much to relate here.

Very briefly:

Patrick was wounded at Gallipoli early in 1915. He was taken to Malta to recover and then to a hospital in England. At the hospital Patrick fell in love with an American nurse, Alice, and married her as soon as he was declared fit to resume service in April 1916. Patrick was shipped to France and was killed in action in August 1916.

Martin was in Egypt from February to June 1916. He was shipped to France in July. He was wounded in action in May 1917. Wounded again in action in October 1917 (gunshot wound to the head) and died from this wound on 20 October 1917.

Rody went to France from England late in 1916. He had obviously met Patrick’s new bride before he was shipped out because in July 1918 she (Alice) wrote to the army asking that he be allowed to return to Australia with her. Central to her plea was the fact that she had already lost her husband and the family had lost two boys. The Army gave permission for Rody to return to Melbourne with Alice.

Rody went on to marry and lived in Melbourne until he was 65. He died in 1971 and was survived by his wife and three children. A very sad conclusion is the story of Alice. Though she was American she chose to come to Australia with Rody, her brother-in-law, and to make a life here. She got work as a nurse at a new home for disabled returned soldiers in St.Kilda.

By order of the St.Kilda Council the building had to be fumigated. All staff and patients were evacuated and staff were instructed not to enter the building but, for some reason, Alice did go back into the building – perhaps to check that all patients were outside. She was overcome by fumes and died at age 26. I don’t know if she had any contact with her American family.

So that is, briefly, the Larkin WW1 story. Just one of many tragic stories from the time. As we know there were few families not affected. Of course you have Rody’s name in the old school register and his father’s name on an honour board. The Larkin boys who died are not on the school’s WW1 honour roll because they were never students at Moolap.

I know you need to keep the story fairly brief for the children and hope this is helpful.”

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

BIG WRITE - Our First Day

This morning on the gate, I was really excited to hear that so many of our students had discussed with topic of Can elephants be a pet? Our students completed lots of fun activities in preparation from 10am to 11am. Then after break our students settled down quickly and were really engaged in their writing. We are looking forward to seeing what our students have composed. Thanks to all of our teachers who have closely collaborated in providing this new opportunity for our students.

School Council Update

Last night the School Council:

- Reviewed and endorsed the 2015 Annual School Report ready to submit to the Department of Education.
- Approved the plan for the school’s self-evaluation which is inclusive of all stakeholders in the community.
- Discussed progress in the implementation of the Reading Intervention program, the writing assessment (VCOP) and the Big Write.
- Reviewed and discussed Safe and Collaborative Culture Survey data (more on this next week)
- Approved for a letter to be written from School Council to Geelong City Council about safety concerns related to cars speeding on High Street.

**Anzac Ceremony**

As noted in our first article, our school had many former students who fought for our country. The SRC are organising a special Anzac ceremony on Friday 22nd April at 2:50pm. Students are encouraged to bring some flowers to lay at the base of the flag. Moolap is supporting The Drysdale R.S.L. sub-branch 2016 ANZAC Appeal. The following ANZAC tokens are available from the office - $1 badges, $2 badges and $3 wristbands.

**District Cross Country Wednesday 27th April**

Next week the school has 22 students who will be competing in the District Cross Country. We wish these students the very best and know they will give their best effort and proudly represent our school.

**Public Holiday Monday**

Please note that Monday 25th April is a public holiday. School is closed on this day. School resumes on Tuesday 26th April. Enjoy!

Robbie

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**Entertainment Books Are Coming!**

Pre-purchase can be made online at [www.entbook.com.au/113162u](http://www.entbook.com.au/113162u)

**Extend After School Care**

We had a great start to Term 2 last week with students participating in some fantastic activities. Students experimented with Oobleek learning about a substance that is a solid and liquid. Students also enjoyed our Extend Movie night complete with popcorn.

This week's activities:

- **Monday 18th April** - Cooking – Anzac Slice
- **Tuesday 19th April** - Stress Balls
- **Wednesday 20th April** - Sideline Basketball
- **Thursday 21st April** - Painting
- **Friday 22nd April** - ANZAC Poppy

**MCG NEWS**

- **Canteen Roster - CANTEEN RESUMES THIS WEEK**
  
  Thursday 21 April – Mel V, Bronwyn M, Jo K, Claire D  
  Thursday 28 April – Justyne W, Wendy W, Claire D, Emma H  
  Thursday 05 May – Nicole D, Mel V, Nadene T Bronwyn M  
  Friday 22 April – Mel V, Maree W  
  Friday 29 April – Amy F, Alisha M, Bronwyn J  
  Friday 06 May – Cherie P, Kylie W

- **Shopping Trip** – A school shopping trip has been tentatively booked for Sunday 13 November. This is a great opportunity to get some Christmas bargains! If you would be interested in attending please leave your name at the office. Final cost will be dependent on numbers attending.

- **Mother’s Day Stall** – We will be holding our annual Mother’s Day Stall on Thursday 5 May. All gifts are $5 and students will be able to purchase a gift during the morning. Please make sure you send $5 and a plastic bag on the day. Help is required between 9 – 11.00 a.m. (approx). If you are able to assist with the running of the stall please leave your details at the office.

**NETBALL NEWS**

This week’s game is Wednesday 20 April – 5.20 p.m. Reminder that training is held at school each Tuesday during second break.

**2016 DIARY DATES**

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<td>Fri 20</td>
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<td>Tues 24</td>
<td>Division Cross Country</td>
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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Geelong High School Information Evening - Tuesday 19th April commencing at 7.00 pm in the school hall.