

# Thumbs down to school merger

EMMA JENKINS

A MERGER between Swan Hill's Catholic schools has been nixed. MacKillop College and St Mary's Primary School

will not be merging after an interim report into the proposal was released on Tuesday night.

The report, released at a joint board meeting between the two schools and

St Mary's Parish Council, recommended the existing structure of Catholic education provision in Swan Hill remain in place.

Brad Carr from the Catholic Education Office

Ballarat said there was a further recommendation for research to be conducted in areas of transition between years five to eight.

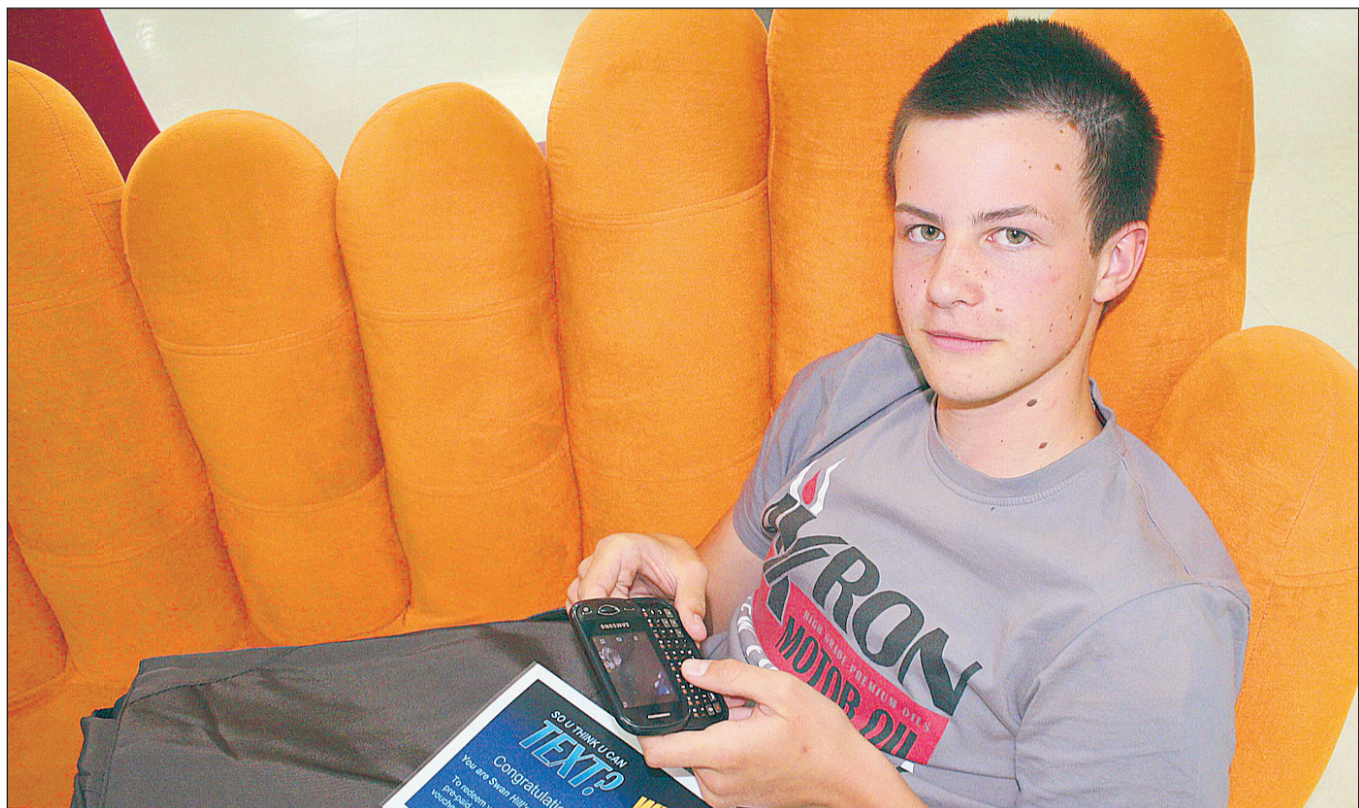
Mr Carr said the curriculum of these year levels would

also be researched with the view of maximising student learning outcomes between primary and secondary education.

"There will be greater collaboration between the

two schools to create a seamless transition into secondary school," Mr Carr said.

"There will be no change in the actual structure of the two schools," he said.



## TOP TEXT:

JAKE Earle is the fastest texter in town. The teen won the inaugural Swan Hill texting competition held at the Swan Hill Regional Library on Wednesday night. As part of his prize Jack won a new mobile phone so he can keep practicing his lucrative skills.

# Promise of drag strip funding

EMMA JENKINS

A NEW drag strip for Swan Hill could be a reality, with the Coalition pledging money for the project.

The Swan Hill Drag Racing Association has welcomed a promise from the Coalition to provide \$2 million to the Chisholm Reserve motor sports complex.

Member for Swan Hill Peter Walsh announced on Wednesday that if elected into government on November 27 the Liberal Nationals Coalition would provide the funding from its \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund.

"Leader of the Victorian Nationals, Peter Ryan, and myself recently met with representatives of the motor sports club and viewed first hand the development that has taken place and the plans for the future of the complex," Mr Walsh said.

"The funds will enable an immediate start to work that will be recommended in the soon to be released development plan for the complex. "This is a great

resource for the region and is a result of the drive and commitment that people throughout northern Victoria show when developing projects and programs for their communities."

Swan Hill Drag Racing Association president Gary Rovere said the club welcomed this statement and was pleased to have both the government and opposition's support for the project.

"I think it's really good news that we have bi-partisan support for the new motor sport park," Mr Rovere said.

"The project looks very positive at this stage.

"Let's hope the State Government will fund a new national standard drag racing track and upgrades to our motor sport park."

The Swan Hill community has been supporting the proposal for a quarter mile drag track for some time with expectations to attract national events to the town and provide a multi-purpose track for use by the general public.

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