Woodend
Charities Policy

Issue No. 3
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Definition
A charity is a not for profit institution or fund whose main purpose is to benefit the community or a section of it through:
- The relief of poverty or sickness or the needs of the aged
- The advancement of education
- The advancement of religion, or
- Other purposes beneficial to the community

Context
We believe there are significant benefits for Woodend Primary School students being involved in charitable activities. The opportunity to participate in responsible actions on behalf of the community provides scope for collaboration, an appreciation of social justice and equity, and a sense of achievement. We believe that learners develop stronger personal and citizenship skills and dispositions by doing something for others and by putting others’ needs ahead of their own.

We wish to emphasise that there is no obligation for families to make contributions in support of activities undertaken at the school on behalf of charities and non-profit organisations. While we hope there is support within the school community for all activities in which students engage, there is no expectation that parents should feel pressured to donate goods or money.

Involvement
During a school year all students could be involved in fundraising activities in support of charitable organisations.
- SRC supports charities through two casual days each year
- Classes may chose to support a charity or charities
- From time to time, whole school support may be considered for a charity: For example a whole school jumpathon for the Heart Foundation.
- Local and Global crises such as the Tsunami Appeal or bushfire relief may draw support from classes or whole school

A Healthy Balance
We wish to harness the energy and passion that doing something for others can catalyse. On the other hand we want a sensible and manageable approach that allows for reasonable limits. Therefore there is no expectation that classes will be involved in support of charities. One charity may be a sensible limit for a class commitment.

Participation
SRC, classes, and others intending to participate in charitable activities must submit a proposal to the Principal, based on the criteria below and receive approval for the activities to go ahead. In all cases the Principal will consider the healthy balance when applying the following criteria in order to determine whether support for a charity would go ahead.
Criteria for approval of activities in support of charities

Activities are in support of a bone fide charitable organisation
The activities and charity are relevant and meaningful for students and understood by them.

The initiative is supported by a strong connection with the learning program. There is a focus on the act not tangible rewards (prizes)
A safe activity (sponsors beyond the family without parental supervision is discouraged)
Managed with minimum administrative support

All money or goods raised go to the charity (not a percentage to the school)

The timing: consideration is given to other school activities - avoiding clashes or detracting from their impact; what has already occurred during the year: previous involvement of the class or group etc

With due consideration to the financial demands on families in our community, a maximum of two activities allowed in any one year:

Achieving an overall balance of goods, services, money being donated over the year