



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 3, Week 2 – 28th July 2025

Birregurra Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments. Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Child safety is a shared responsibility.

Our Vision

An inclusive community that supports and encourages a love of learning and the skills and mindset to thrive.

Our School Values

Community - growing positive partnerships between school, home and the broader community

Aspire - setting goals and purposefully working towards their achievement

Respect - for self, others, learning and our environment

Excellence - striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of schooling.

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome to Week 2! We've had a cold yet positive start to Term 3!

Last Thursday was the first day of our school review, a great chance to celebrate the strong data we have across the school and to get into classrooms to see teaching and learning in action.

The review panel, made up of principals, our School Council President, an external reviewer, the leadership team, and our Senior Education

Improvement Leader, were very impressed with the high level of student engagement across the school.

Day 2 of the review is coming up this Wednesday. It will give us the chance to explore the panel's wonderings in more depth, with more classroom visits and focus group conversations. We're also holding a **Parent Forum at 9:00am on Wednesday** for those interested in sharing their experiences and supporting our school's future directions. Thanks to those who've already expressed interest—there are still a couple of spots left, so please email the school at birregurra.ps@education.vic.gov.au if you'd like to come along.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN results arrived at our school last week, and individual student reports were published via XUNO to families with students in Years 3 and 5 on Monday afternoon. NAPLAN proficiency scales categorise student results into *Exceeding*, *Strong*, *Developing* and *Needs Additional Support*. The below table shows the percentage of students who are Exceeding or Strong in each test compared to similar schools.

NAPLAN TEST		NAPLAN PROFICIENCY: PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS EXCEEDING OR STRONG	
		BIRREGURRA P.S.	SIMILAR SCHOOLS*
Year 3	Reading	75%	73%
	Writing	100%	83%
	Grammar & Punctuation	75%	63%
	Numeracy	90%	72%
Year 5	Reading	100%	80%
	Writing	95%	72%
	Spelling	89%	64%
	Grammar & Punctuation	84%	67%
	Numeracy	95%	73%

School Councillors – Rob Lidgerwood, Luke Fitzpatrick, Kelly Dodds, Emily McDonald, Cassie Stephens, Sarah Green, Alistair Burrell, Jaymie Lowe.

(Similar Schools: a group of Victorian Government Schools with similar characteristics - socio-economic status, non-English speaking students, enrolment size and geographic location.)*

While NAPLAN provides a valuable snapshot of student learning and helps us evaluate the impact of our teaching and learning programs, we know that education is about much more than test results. At Birregurra Primary School, we are committed to supporting the whole child by focusing on all aspects of growth - academic, social, emotional, and personal development.

Although NAPLAN is just one measure, I'm very pleased to share that our students performed above similar schools in 9 out of 10 areas. This is a fantastic achievement, and one our entire school community should be extremely proud of!

NAIDOC Week celebrations

As part of our school's acknowledgment of NAIDOC Week, our Grade 3 and Grade 4/5 students made saltbush damper on Thursday afternoon, using saltbush grown in our school garden. They then gathered in our yarnning circle to enjoy the damper together.

Students also took part in other activities throughout the week, including playing traditional Aboriginal games, helping them connect with and celebrate First Nations culture in a meaningful way.



Staffing Update

Following on from last week's newsletter regarding staffing, I'm pleased to share from Week 5 this term, Mrs Gemma Welsh will take over the Grade 3 class from Monday to Thursday, with Mrs Ritchie teaching the class on Fridays. As existing members of our teaching team, both teachers know the students well, which will support a smooth and confident transition. A thorough handover with Miss Riseley is currently underway to ensure consistency and continuity for students.

We're also pleased to share that Mr King will be working in the Grade 4/5 classroom each Wednesday afternoon following specialist classes, and that Mrs Ritchie and Miss Beth will be leading our tutoring program across the school. Additionally, from Week 5, we will be welcoming a new staff member to deliver STEAM for our Prep-3 classes on Mondays. More details about this appointment will be shared soon.

While class timetables remain unchanged for now, updated timetables will be published by classroom teachers ahead of Week 5 to reflect these staffing changes.

Wheelie Wednesday

While the weather wasn't ideal for our first 'Wheelie Wednesday' session this term, we were pleased to see some enthusiastic riders braving the conditions to scoot or ride at lunchtime.

This week, it's our Prep-2 students' turn to participate in 'Wheelie Wednesday'. A reminder that to take part, students must have the required safety gear, including an Australian Standards approved helmet, and must follow the rules outlined below:

- No sharing of bikes, scooters, or helmets
- No over-arm flips with scooters
- Students must ride in one direction to avoid head-on collisions
- No jumping off any surface
- Bunny hops are permitted on scooters

Students who do not follow the rules will be asked to put their bike or scooter away for the remainder of lunchtime.

Life Education

This **Thursday 31st July**, students in Grades 3-6 will engage in the 'Talk About It' Program facilitated by a trained professional from Life Education.

Children in Years 3 & 4 will engage in a session titled 'Body Safety' and learn to recognise and express their feelings, understand when they feel unsafe, know who to report concerns to, distinguish between body parts, understand consent and boundaries, differentiate between safe and unsafe touch, and practice protective behaviours.

Our Year 5's will develop an understanding of the physical, social and emotional changes that occur during puberty through the 'Welcome to Puberty' module.

Year 6 students will engage in the 'Thriving in Puberty' module which is an extension of the Welcome to Puberty module they completed last year. If you have any wonderings regarding these sessions, please make contact.



Clubs

Our first Clubs session will take place this **Friday 1st August**. Students have been placed into one of their top three preferences, and we're excited to launch a range of engaging activities.

BCA Children's Book Week 2025

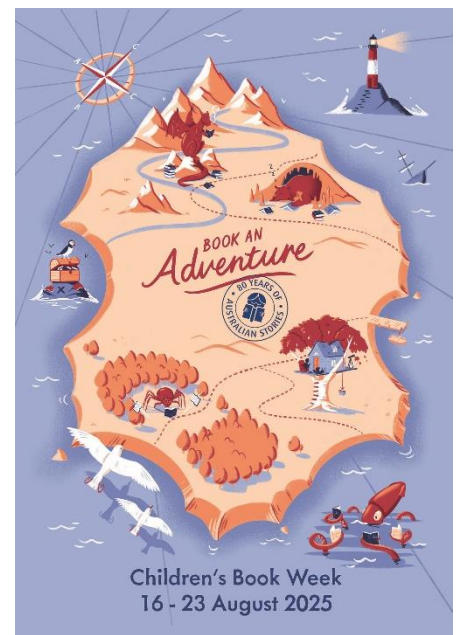
Book week is just around the corner (Week 5) and the theme for Book Week this year is 'Book an Adventure'. To help celebrate, we are inviting students and staff to dress up on **Monday 18th August**. Costumes may be linked to the theme **or** a favourite book character. Costumes need not be new or elaborate – they can be made from anything you have at home and can be simple and creative with minimal fuss. We will kick off the celebrations with a Book Week Parade at 9:00am on Monday morning the 18th of August, where students and staff will have the chance to show off their amazing costumes.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK TURNS 80 IN 2025!

Children's Book Week is the BCA's key highlight national event of the year. This year's celebration will run from Saturday 16 to Saturday 23 August. The 2025 theme is Book an Adventure!

The feature artist for the year, Jess McGeachin, has brilliantly captured this adventurous spirit in his artwork, which features a whimsical map filled with imaginary characters. Jess' illustration invites young readers to embark on fantastical journeys, inspiring them to travel through the worlds that books open up. As an award-winning Australian picture book illustrator, Jess' work encourages children to imagine, explore, and create their own adventures.

2025 is also a milestone year for the BCA as they celebrate **80 years of Children's Book Week!** For 8 decades, BCA has been dedicated to inspiring young minds to journey through the countless worlds that books offer. Jess' imaginative artwork reflects this mission perfectly, encouraging children to set off on adventures through time, lands, and imagination. The BCA look forward to continuing this mission for the next 80 years and beyond!



Reminders

It is always good to revisit school expectations for the whole school community at the beginning of each term. By working together, we can create a positive and inclusive atmosphere that promotes growth and development.

- Respect and kindness – We expect all students to treat their peers, teachers, and staff members with respect and kindness. Encourage your child to use polite language, show empathy, and be considerate of others' feelings.
- Communication – We strongly encourage communication between parents and teachers and promote positive home/school partnerships. Teachers can be contacted via SeeSaw and XUNO should you have any questions or queries.
- Attendance and Punctuality – Regular attendance and punctuality are vital for academic success. Ensure that your child arrives at school on time and notify the school in advance if they are unable to attend. Consistent attendance enables them to benefit fully from their educational experience.
- Uniform – Please ensure that your child is dressed in school uniform. A neat and tidy appearance promotes a sense of belonging and pride in our school community. We completely understand washing/drying can be challenging during winter months and if this is the case, please let teachers know.
- Car park - To ensure the safety of all children, please ensure you are using the designated footpath at the back gate and not walking across the road. Please drive at walking space in the back car park area and keep your eyes peeled for children.

Thanks for your ongoing support. Positive home school partnerships and relationships ensure the best possible outcomes for your child/ren. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Have a wonderful second week.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

Dates for the Diary

TERM 3	
Tuesday 29 th July	- Prep's 100 th Day of School
Thursday 31 st July	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Life Education Sessions - Gr 3-6
Friday 1 st August	- Clubs 2.15pm
Monday 4 th August	- School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 6 th August	- STEAM Incursion
Thursday 7 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 8 th August	- Assembly 2.45pm - Prep Class Presentation
Wednesday 13 th - Friday 15 th August	- Gr 3-6 YMCA Camp, Anglesea
Thursday 14 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Monday 18 th August	- Book Week Parade 9am
Thursday 21 st August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs 2.15pm
Friday 22 nd August	- Assembly 2.45pm - Gr 5/6 Class Presentation
Thursday 28 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 29 th August	- Clubs 2.15pm

Students of the Week

Community	MuYa C	For the positive way you support your peers, always willing to help when required. Thank you for being a kind and helpful member of our class MuYa.
	Dane L	For your awesome teamwork and enthusiasm at our Swimming Carnival. You were a great Strachan team member!
	Tim S	For showing our school value of Community during our swimming celebration by getting in the pool and giving it a go. Your willingness to participate and support the spirit of the event helped make it a fun and positive experience for everyone. Well done!
	Riley H	For jumping in and having a go in all of the events at Swimming Sports! You were a great Skene team member. Keep it up Riley!
	Hettie G	For being a thoughtful and supportive member of our learning community. Always offering help to others and contributing insightful ideas that encourage deeper thinking and collaboration. Keep up the great work, Hettie!
	Jaxson D	Well done Jaxson for following our class value closely this week by being prepared to share your best learning with the class. Your contributions were very valuable and did not go unnoticed. Keep up this positive start to the term, Jax!
Aspire	Jack L	For showing great determination to stay focused and finish your work. You are listening with care and are always ready to learn. Keep up the great work Jack!
	Xavier N	For your enthusiasm and determination to respond quickly and accurately during our Maths Daily Review! You are a superstar Xav!
	Wallace B	Wallace, during our Sounds-Write lessons, you have shown what it means to aspire by staying focused, participating thoughtfully, and always striving to do your best. Your positive attitude and determination to improve help set a great example for others. Keep aiming high.
	Indi K	For your enthusiasm and curiosity in our multiplication lessons this week. I like the way you've stretched your brain and worked hard to identify the patterns and number facts. Keep aspiring Indi!
	Ava R	For consistently demonstrating a positive attitude towards learning and striving to do your best in every task. You approach your work with focus and dedication, showing great care and effort in all that you do. Keep up fantastic work, Ava.
	Jack G	I love the way you have taken a strong interest in reading the 'I Survived' series. It is very pleasing to see you immerse yourself in good reading habits. Keep it up, Jack!
STEAM	Val C	For showing outstanding enthusiasm and dedication in STEAM, approaching each task with curiosity, creativity, and a genuine eagerness to explore new ideas. Keep up the fabulous work, Val!
Art	Van B	Well done Van on a wonderful week in Art! Your beautiful and symmetrical butterfly design is to be congratulated. Great work!
PE	Levi R	For his strong understanding of our Phys Ed values of Teamwork, Sportsman and Fun!
Indonesian	Savannah K	For demonstrating excellent recall of Indonesian vocabulary and using it confidently during class activities — Bagus!



Principal's Award

Savannah K

For her positive leadership at our swimming celebration—great to see you encouraging teammates and setting a strong example!

Wishing the following students
a very
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July

29th

Bella G

31st

Nate B

August

1st

Bodhi S

2nd

Nova A





At times, students experiencing wellbeing challenges may need support beyond what school-based services can provide. With this in mind, it is important to highlight that families can access a range of external mental health supports, including GPs, psychologists, and services like Headspace and The Orange Door. Additional support is also available through Kids Helpline and Beyond Blue. Seeking help early provides children with the greatest chance of a positive outcome.

Attached below are a range of services families can access depending upon the needs of the child.

Brendan King

GENERAL WELLBEING SERVICES			
Primary and Secondary students	Kids Help Line	24 hour free, confidential counselling service available any time of the day or night by phone or webchat for young people aged 5-25	1800 55 1800 Kids Helpline Phone Counselling Service 1800 55 1800
Secondary students Schools	eHeadspace	Online and telephone support service available from 9am-1am Melbourne time to support young people aged 12-25. Student self-help resources are available online, and there are also comprehensive resources for schools.	1800 650 890 eheadsace Support headspace
Secondary students Schools	Beyond Blue	24 hour online and telephone support and advice for anyone struggling with their mental health. Calls are charged at local rates. The Be You program by Beyond Blue offers comprehensive resources for schools in supporting student wellbeing.	1300 22 4636 https://www.beyondblue.org.au/ Home - Be You
Secondary students Schools Families	ReachOut	Self-help resources available for students, families and schools to support every aspect of wellbeing	About ReachOut Australia : Home
Secondary students Schools Families	Head to Health	Self-help resources available for older students, families and schools to support every aspect of wellbeing.	Welcome to Head to Health Head to Health

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION			
Primary and Secondary students Families	The BRAVE Program	A free online program to support students dealing with anxiety and depression. The programs are designed to be self-directed or completed with parents and trusted adults and are divided into three age groups: 3-7, 8-12, 12-17. There are also resources and corresponding programs available for parents.	Login BRAVE Self-Help Program (ug.edu.au)
Secondary students	SANE Australia	Free online and telephone support for secondary students and adults who are struggling with feelings of anxiety and depression. Support services are available 10am-10pm Melbourne time.	1800 18 7263 Counselling support (sane.org)
Schools Families	Black Dog Institute	Information and resources on anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and other aspects of mental health. Suitable for teachers and families in supporting students with understanding and managing their mental health.	Mental health resources and tools - Black Dog Institute
Secondary students	Youth Focus	Mental health support, including counselling and group therapy, for young people aged 12-25 in Western Australia.	Youth Focus Supporting young Western Australian people and their mental health
Secondary students	Sonder	Mental health and wellbeing support, management and treatment plans for young people aged 12-25 in South Australia.	Teens & Young People - Sonder

EATING DISORDERS			
Primary and Secondary students Schools Families	The Butterfly Foundation	Evidence-based support services, treatment and resources for young people impacted by eating disorders. Online and telephone support for those affected by eating disorders is available everyday from 7am-midnight Melbourne time.	Helpline - Butterfly Foundation 1800 33 4673
Families	Eating Disorders Families Australia	Provides support for families affected by eating disorders	Home - Support for families and carers of those with Eating Disorders - EDFA



JUNIOR PICKLEBALL
FREE Come & Try
Wed 29 July 4.30pm

Open for Grades 5 & 6 and Years 7 & 8.

Keep the kids active with a fun new paddle sport that is easy to learn and addictive once you start playing.

Drop in for a hit, social competition starts 6 August. Enquiries welcome to Paul 0425792949

FREE Come & Try Wed 29 July 4.30pm



JUNIOR PICKLEBALL

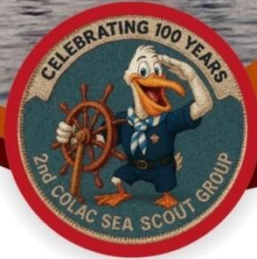
OPEN TO GRADES 5 & 6 AND YEARS 7 & 8
KEEPS THE KIDS ACTIVE WITH A FUN NEW PADDLE SPORT
THAT IS EASY TO LEARN AND ADDICTIVE ONCE YOU START
PLAYING! SOCIAL COMPETITION PLAY. REGISTER NOW.

- **REGISTER**
- **NOW**
- **TERM 3**

Your paragraph text



100 YEARS - OF - 2ND COLAC SEA SCOUTS



**COLAC LOG CABIN
SCOUT HALL
FRIDAY 1ST OF AUGUST
RSVP BY JULY 25TH**

BOOK NOW WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCPGV

Hear from guest speaker Ben 'The Bandit' Harkin, enjoy a roast dinner and birthday cake.

Open to all current and former members of 2nd Colac Sea Scout Group and their families.

Interested in joining the Scouting movement? You're invited too!

Feel free to bring along Scouting memorabilia to share and join us to celebrate 100 years of the Group.

There will also be an Open Day on **Saturday 2nd of August** from 10am at the 2nd Colac Sea Scout Hall for anyone who'd like to visit.

For more information contact gl.2ndColac@scoutsvictoria.com.au

ANGAIR WILDFLOWER & ARTS WEEKEND



20 & 21 September 2025

10am – 4pm

**Anglesea Memorial Hall
McMillan Street, Anglesea**

Visit online at: www.angairnatureshow.org.au

Enquiries: email admin@angair.org.au

phone 5263 1085

www.angair.org.au



Proudly sponsored by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank




Try Scouts for Free for three weeks

Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

3rd 4th Colac Scout Group is welcoming new members to unlock Fun, Adventure, Friendship & Leadership!

Our Section meeting nights are

- Joey Scouts | ages 5 - 8 | Wednesday 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- Cub Scouts | ages 8-11 | Tuesday 6pm - 7:30pm
- Scouts | ages 11-14 | Thursday 7pm - 9pm
- Venturer Scouts | ages 14-18 | Monday 6pm - 8pm
- Rover Scouts | ages 18 - 26 | Meet with Yarrimbak Rover Unit



**3rd 4th Colac
Scout Group**

COMMUNITY – ASPIRE – RESPECT – EXCELLENCE