



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 3, Week 6 – 25th August 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 are 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 LGBTQ+ 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

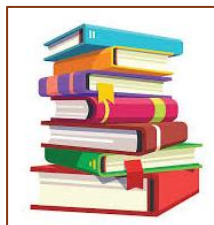
Community - growing positive partnerships between school, home and the broader community

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 6! What a wonderful week we had celebrating Book Week! Our parade was filled with fantastic costumes, and the giant book swap gave students the chance to enjoy plenty of second-hand treasures. A big thank you to all the families who sent in their answers for the Family Book Challenge, Question 7 certainly tricked a few! Congratulations to the Lidgerwood, Mezzro and Perkins families for being the first three to answer the questions correctly.

We also congratulate the following winners of our Book Week Parade, as judged by the Junior School Council:

- **Prep** – Nova & Elise
- **1/2L** – Joe & Isabelle
- **1/2M** – Bella & Juniper
- **3** – Tess & Hudson
- **4/5** – Fletcher & Byron
- **5/6** – Logan & Stevie

Our second Giant Book Swap was another highlight of the week. The multi-purpose room was brimming with books for students to explore, and it was wonderful to see so much excitement around reading. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We hope this event inspires even more reading and opens doors to new stories for our students to enjoy!

Welcome Heather Ellis

This week we welcome Heather Ellis to our school. Mrs Ellis is a Learning Specialist from a primary school in Geelong and is completing the UP (Unlocking Potential) program, which is designed to build the capacity of school leaders. Over the next four weeks, she will be working alongside me, supporting our staff, students and families. We're looking forward to learning from her expertise as well as supporting her leadership capabilities.



Welcome Banjo & family

This week we are excited to welcome a new student, Banjo, who has joined Grade 1 in the 1/2L class. We are thrilled to have Banjo as part of our school community and are confident that our community will make him and his family feel very welcome as he settles in, makes new friends, and enjoys his learning journey with us.

Gaga Referees

Our Gaga Pit has been such a wonderful addition to the school and is a favourite playtime activity for lots of our students. To help make sure it stays a positive and enjoyable experience, our School Captains and House Captains will each take a turn as referee during one playtime a week starting this week.

This is a great way for our student leaders to step up, show responsibility and support others, while also keeping the game safe and fair for everyone. As our yard duty staff are required to roam the designated areas and cannot always monitor the Gaga Pit closely, this system also provides extra support to ensure the game is managed well.

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

If the rostered referee is away, the Gaga Pit will be closed for that playtime.

We believe this system not only helps protect the fun and fairness of the game but also gives our student leaders an opportunity to shine, build confidence, and model teamwork for younger students. It's a win-win for everyone and will help make our Gaga Pit an even stronger part of our school community.

JSC Footy Colours Day & Raffle



At our recent JSC meeting, one of our young leaders suggested running a footy raffle to celebrate Footy Colours Day on the final day of term, **Friday 19th September**. This is a wonderful example of student voice in action, with students helping shape the activities and events in our school. We are excited to announce that the Geelong Cats Football Club has generously donated some fantastic prizes for the raffle.

Our Footy Raffle launches **today!** Tickets can be purchased through the link on the poster in today's newsletter. Payments can be made by direct deposit to the school account, by cash at the office, or via EFTPOS. Families who would like a physical ticket book to sell to friends and relatives can also collect one from the office. To see the full list of prizes, check out the poster in today's newsletter. On Footy Colours Day, students and staff are invited to dress up in their favourite footy gear. When we say footy, we mean AFL, junior footy teams, soccer, as well as basketball, netball, baseball, or simply getting colourful to join in the fun!

Emergency Drill

This Wednesday all students and staff will be participating in an emergency drill. The safety and security of our students and staff are of the utmost importance to us, and these drills are essential for ensuring preparedness in the unlikely event of an actual emergency.

During the lockdown drill, our students and staff will practise the procedures and protocols to follow in the event of a potential security threat inside or in the vicinity of the school premises. The drill will be supervised by our staff who will ensure that it is conducted safely and efficiently.

Once the drill is completed, we will take some time to review and discuss the experience with our students, addressing any questions they may have.



AFL Virtual Classroom

This Wednesday our 3-6 students will engage in an AFL virtual classroom session. Facilitated by a qualified teacher and AFL Cody Weightman, students will be inspired to make healthy choices and get active through interactive games, quizzes, and a live Q&A.

Lunch Order Roster

A reminder that lunch order forms are due at the office by 9:00 am on Wednesday morning. Please see the roster below for the next few weeks and let us know if you need to make a change or arrange a swap with someone.

Date	Helpers
Friday 29th August	Kelly Dodds
Friday 5th September	Jess Buchanan
Friday 12th September	Sarah Scott
Friday 19th September	Cara Lidgerwood

Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey

Thanks to the families that have completed the Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey. The survey will remain open until **Friday 19th September 2025**. Please refer to XUNO for the survey link and PIN. Thanks in advance for providing your valuable feedback.



PJ Day- JSC fundraiser

Next **Monday 1st of September**, our Junior School Council are running a pyjama day to raise funds to support children in foster care. Students and staff are invited to dress in their favourite pyjamas. This fun event is a great way for everyone to relax and show off their most comfortable and creative sleepwear while also raising funds for a worthy cause. We encourage students to please bring along a gold coin donation.

Father's Day Breakfast

On **Friday the 5th of September** we warmly invite father's, father figures or another special person in our students lives to join us for breakfast. Please come along with your child/ren from 8:00am to enjoy breakfast. To assist with preparation, we would appreciate if you could please RSVP by phone 52362222 or email birregurra.ps@education.vic.edu.au to the office by **1st September**. We look forward to acknowledging the father figures that support our students and their education!

2026 Enrolments

We have begun our 2026 planning and request that if you have an intention to enrol or leave the school, you let us know as soon as possible. This information makes an enormous difference when we are making staffing decisions. Please let any friends or family that you think may be hoping to enrol with us, to give the office a call.

Parent Payments 2025- Reminder

A sincere thank you to all parents/guardians who have paid for your child/ren's 2025 curriculum contribution items, set up a payment plan, and/or donated towards our voluntary contributions. This is greatly appreciated. As we enter the second half of Term 3, a friendly reminder to those who are yet to pay to please make payment arrangements as soon as possible. To discuss payment options, or to set up a payment plan, please contact Mrs Leigh in the office at your earliest convenience.

Reminders

- A reminder lunch order forms are due back by Wednesday morning 9:00am for a Friday lunch.
- Wheelie Wednesday is for Prep-2 students this Wednesday.

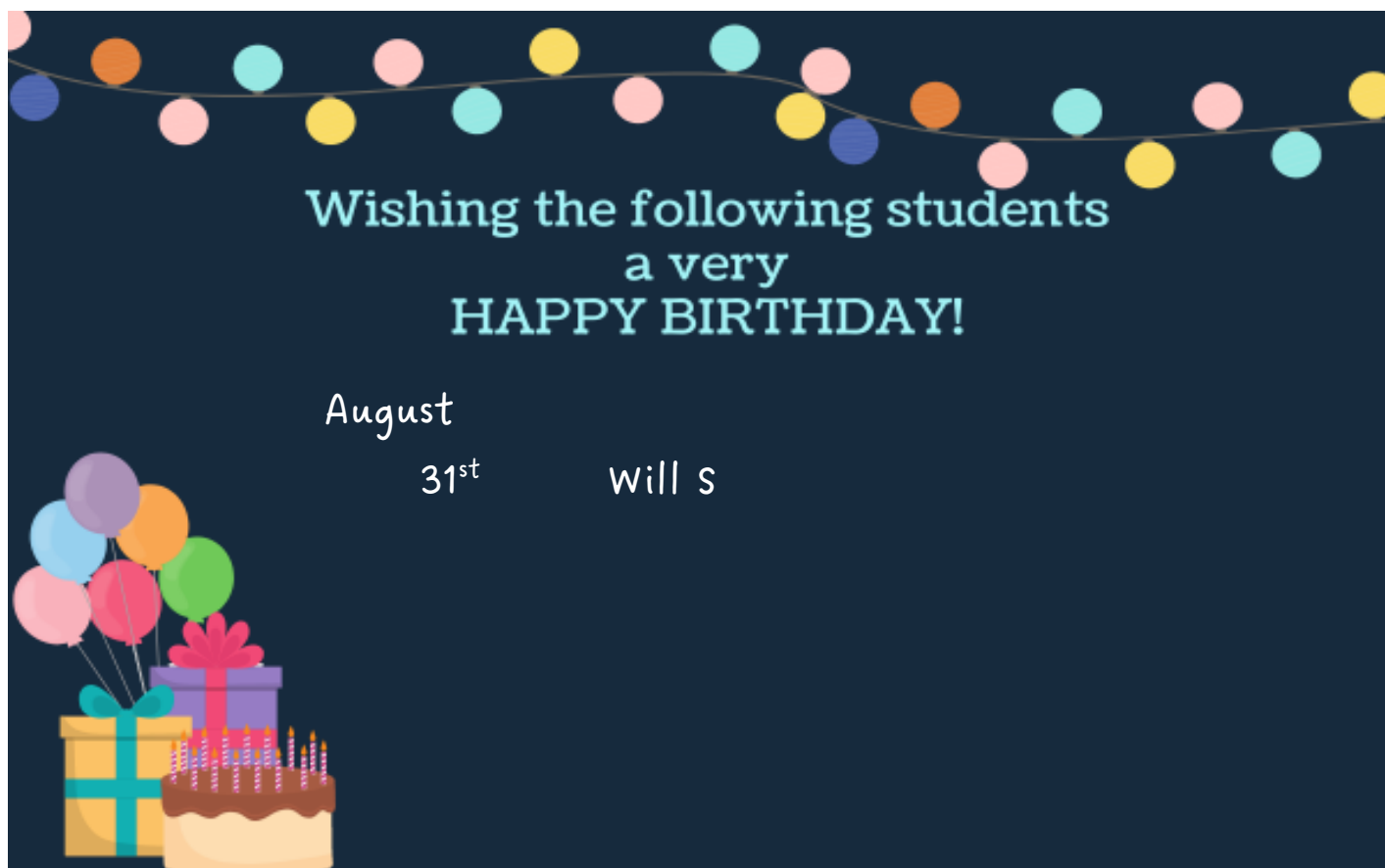
Enjoy the week. Hard to believe we are halfway through Term 3 already! Please reach out if we can further support in any way.

Jess Kattwinkel & team 😊



Dates for the Diary

TERM 3	
Wednesday 27 th August	- Wheelie Wednesday Prep-2
Thursday 28 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 29 th August	- Clubs 2.15pm
Monday 1 st September	- RSVP for Father's Day Breakfast due - JSC Pyjama Day - Gold Coin Donation
Wednesday 3 rd September	- Wheelie Wednesday Gr 3-6
Thursday 4 th September	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 5 th September	- Father's Day Breakfast 8am - Assembly 2.45pm - Gr 4/5 Class Presentation
Monday 8 th September	- School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 10 th September	- Wheelie Wednesday Prep-2
Thursday 11 th September	- R U OK? Day - Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 12 th September	- Clubs 2.15pm
Wednesday 17 th September	- Wheelie Wednesday Gr 3-6
Thursday 18 th September	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 19 th September	- Last Day of Term 3, 2.15pm finish - Footy Colours Day - Assembly 1.45pm - Gr 3 Class Presentation



Students of the Week

Community	Violet P	For the kind and caring way you ensure everyone in our classroom feels included. Thank you for looking after everyone Violet, you are so thoughtful!
	Maxi G	For always being willing to lend a helping hand in the classroom. Thank you for always showing kindness and support to both the teacher and classmates. Well done on being such a wonderful role model Maxi! From Miss Hayes
	Vivi R	For always helping to keep our classroom neat and tidy by putting things back where they belong. Your care and responsibility make a big difference for our classroom community!
	Thomas M	For demonstrating outstanding care and responsibility on camp, giving your best in every activity and showing amazing support for others. You are a superstar!
	James G	For demonstrating such great leadership qualities on camp. You were kind, respectful and generous at all times James. Keep up the amazing qualities in which you show!
	Parker L	You showed fantastic enthusiasm towards your leaders and peers at camp. I admired your compassion for everyone and how you encouraged and uplifted the school community. Well done, Parker!
Aspire	Nova A	For your hard work during our handwriting sessions. You have shown determination and dedication when learning to write on dotted thirds. Well done Nova!
	Wyatt M	For always being willing to showcase your work to others in the classroom. You continuously work hard towards your goals, showing persistence and pride in your learning. Keep up the great work Wyatt! From Miss Hayes
	Tate G	For stretching your brain while learning division in Maths. You've completed the tasks to a high standard and showed great initiative by asking for help when needed. Fantastic work, Tate!
	Evander B	For your fabulous teaching support during our inquiry lesson on electrical circuits. I appreciated how you made sure everyone was successful in the task. Great work, Mr Bliss-Fox!
	Abbey G	You were amazing on camp. Aspiring to do your best with all activities and show off your awesome personality. Great stuff Abbey!
	Stevie G	You approach all tasks with a growth mindset. It is great to see you tackle every activity and challenge with a positive attitude while solving problems. Keep up the good work, Stevie!
STEAM	Will S	For showing fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork during our volcano experiment and making sure everyone was involved. Keep up the great work, Will!
Art	Nate B	Well done Nate on your wonderful attitude to art. You always listen closely to instructions and work carefully to create amazing artworks!
PE	Indi K	For demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship and fun during our PE lesson on basketball with Aleks from Geelong United.
Indonesian	Hettie G	For your thoughtful comparisons between Indonesian Independence Day and Australia Day, showing great understanding and curiosity about culture and history. Bagus, Hettie!



Principal's Award

Bodhi G

For embracing camp and all of the opportunities on offer, showing support to students and staff throughout the three days!



THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL CONNECTIONS FOR CHILDREN

- Positive social connections help children feel a sense of belonging and security at school
- Friendships build confidence, resilience, and support healthy emotional development
- Strong peer relationships encourage teamwork, cooperation, and problem-solving skills
- Social connections reduce feelings of loneliness and can improve overall wellbeing
- Encouraging children to include others fosters kindness, empathy and respect



- Brendan King

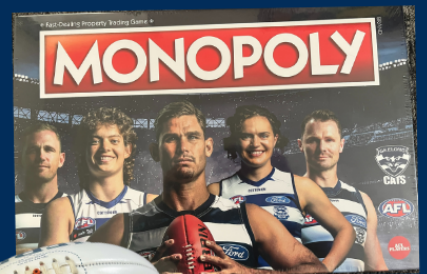
Birregurra Primary School

FOOTY RAFFLE

Tickets \$5 each or 3 for \$10



1st Prize – Signed 2024 Cats jumper with Certificate of Authenticity, Geelong Cats Sherrin Football



2nd Prize – Geelong Cats Monopoly Game, Geelong Cats Sherrin Football



3rd Prize- Geelong Cats Throw Rug, Geelong Cats cap, Geelong Cats Sherrin football

4th Prize – Geelong Cats 960ml drink bottle, Geelong Cats Sherrin football



5th Prize – Geelong Cats Sherrin Football



RAFFLE DRAWN FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Purchase your tickets at
<https://forms.gle/DpkBnEny3lYltLsd7>
or from the School Office



School Camp Reflection

By James Grucza

Wednesday 13th August 2025

When we got to school, we put our bags in the multipurpose room and did the roll before getting on the bus to go to the YMCA Discovery Camp. Once we arrived, we found our activity groups and started with a camp search, which was pretty fun! After the camp search, we had afternoon tea, then my group did the vertical challenge. It was very high at the top! After the vertical challenge, we had dinner and went for a walk down to the beach, where there was foam on the sand at night. When we got back, we went to bed.

Thursday 14th August 2025

We had breakfast and started our activities. My group's first activity was hut building, and we were pretty good at it, although I cut my finger on a stick. Then we did bush cooking and made damper, which was delicious! After bush cooking, we had sausages for lunch before continuing with more activities. My next activity was creating a mini golf course down by the river, followed by canoe survivor. We had to complete challenges on the river before walking back up to camp, having dinner, and watching a movie.

Friday 15th August 2025

On Friday, we woke up, had breakfast, and started our activities. My first activity was High Resolves, where we answered questions and earned points to buy things for our countries to use. After High Resolves, we had afternoon tea, then went down to the oval to find the right-sized mountain bike. We had a practice ride on the oval to get used to the bikes before heading out. When we started riding, we had to go up a hill, and then the rest of the ride was downhill. Once we finished, we got on the bus and went home.



YMCA Camp

By Daisy F

Day 1

First, we arrived at camp. After we got there, we had our fruit snack and recess. Then we met a nice lady named Rhi, she was so kind! Rhi showed us around the whole camp and explained the boundaries. After that, we played a game with her called This or That. It was a fun game to get to know our classmates.

Next, we had to make our beds. The cabins had blue mattresses and three bunk beds. I was in a cabin with Soraya, Ava, and Lottie. After we made our beds, we got into our groups for the activities. I was in Group 1, and our first activity was the Giant Swing. We got into our harnesses, and Lottie went first.

The person running it would say "BRACE," and then we had to shout out "CHICKEN JOCKEY!" before counting down: 5...4...3...2...1. Then you pulled a red handle and off you went flying! I went third, it was so fun!

After everyone had a turn, we had lunch. Then we played parachute games. To be honest, I liked the Big Swing better!

For dinner, we had pasta Bolognese, it was pretty good. For dessert, we had vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce. After dinner, we went on a night walk and saw an algae bloom on the beach. Lights out was at 9:30 p.m.

Day 2

When we woke up, we had to clean our rooms. After that, we went to have breakfast. I had two pieces of toast and two bowls of granola. Then we got into our groups for activities again.

First, I did bouldering and mini golf. Bouldering is like rock climbing but without a harness. After that, we had morning tea—we had cookies and fruit.

Then we played volleyball and gaga ball. We did volleyball first, then gaga. Next, we had lunch: sausages! After lunch, we had another activity, Radio Rogaine. That's where you get into groups of three or four (I was with Soraya, Lottie, and Ava) and you have to find little tags with a number and a letter. You had to use the phonetic alphabet to record them. It was so fun! We started on number 11. We only found six, but we got 120 points in total and came 3rd.

After that, we watched Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Then it was dinner time. We had chicken. It was pretty good, but I liked the pasta better. For dessert, we had jelly and cream. I ate all the cream first because I don't like the mix of jelly and cream, then I ate the jelly.

That night we watched The Wild Robot. I missed half of it because I had to have a shower. Lights out was around 10:00 p.m.

Day 3 (Home Time)

It was the last day of camp, and we were all so excited to go home and see our families! When we woke up, we had to pack up our stuff, it was hectic! My group was on breakfast duty, so we had to put cups on the tables.

For breakfast, I had three pieces of toast. Then we got into our groups for the last activities. First, we did the Crate Climb. I absolutely hated it! I volunteered to go first, and it gave me the biggest wedgie ever.

After that, we had morning tea, muffins and fruit. Next, we did the Indigenous Trail, where we answered some questions.

For lunch, we had rolls. Then we hopped on the bus and headed home!



3-6 Camp

By Hunter S

Day 1

I arrived at school in casual clothes, carrying a suitcase and a bag on my back. Later, we went to the multipurpose room and did a number count before getting on the bus. It was about a one-hour ride.



When we arrived, the driver unloaded everyone's suitcases and bags. I grabbed mine, and then everyone went to the basketball court and sat down. There was a guy called Austin playing basketball, and some kids wanted to 1v1 him. Each kid lost until finally, one won and became the king of the court.

After that, we had some food, then played around on the basketball court. Soon, a teacher showed us around Anglesea Camp. Afterwards, we played a game called Would You Rather. Then we went back to the basketball court, where the teachers announced our cabins. I was in a cabin with Lachie, Fletcher, Harvey, and James. We headed over to our cabins, made our beds, and sat in our rooms for a while. After that, we started our activities. My first activity was the Big Swing. We had to put on a harness and helmet before having a turn. I went second last because I was nervous.

After the Big Swing, we played parachute games. We had a huge parachute that we threw up into the air. If you were wearing a colour that Mrs K called out, you had to run under the parachute and across to the other side. (We played other parachute games too.)

Later, we went for a walk to the beach. We had a look around, then walked back to camp and returned to our cabins. We talked for a while until the lights went out.

Day 2

I woke up, got dressed, and went with everyone to the other building

for breakfast. I had cereal and apple juice.

After breakfast, we did bouldering and mini golf. Bouldering is like rock climbing, but without being attached to ropes—you just wear a helmet. In mini golf, I got a lot of hole-in-ones!

Next, we did camp search. In camp search, you walk around camp with a walkie-talkie and find markers. I was in a team with Harvey and Fletcher, and our team name was Bob.

After that, we played mix-up games. We did basketball knockout, which was really fun (and basketball is my favourite sport!).

Later, we went into a room with a big TV and watched Diary of a Wimpy Kid. After the movie, we had dinner. For dinner, we had stir-fry vegetables and BBQ chicken. The BBQ chicken was SO GOOD!

After dinner, we watched another movie, The Wild Robot. In the middle of the movie, James and I went back to our cabins to have a shower. Then we returned to the big TV room and watched the rest of the movie. When it finished, we went straight back to our cabins and went to sleep.

Day 3

In the morning, I had toast with honey for breakfast.

Our first activity was crate climbing. We wore harnesses and helmets, and we were attached to a rope. To climb, you stacked crates one by one while your partner passed them up to you.

After that, we did the Indigenous Trail. We had to find plaques around the camp, read the information, and answer questions.

For lunch, we had rolls. After lunch, we got on the bus and drove back to school.

Anglesea Camp

Written by Hettie Gallagher

Arriving

On Wednesday 13th of August, I went to school with every bone in my body shaking with excitement, because today was CAMP! We were going to Anglesea, to a camp called YMCA. When I arrived at school, I said my goodbyes and walked to the multipurpose room. All my luggage was weighing me down, so I put it on the floor in the multipurpose room. I waited with my friends and showed them my tiny camera.

Finally, the bell rang and all the 3–6s went to the multipurpose room. We all lined up inside and Mrs K gave us each a number, mine was 21. After everyone had a number, we had to say them in order. Our record was something like 32.34 seconds. After that, the Grade 3s left for their bus, and then our line went as well. We hopped on the bus, and we were on our way!

At Camp

When we arrived at camp, everyone was excited and happy. We sat down near the basketball court and watched the boys try to beat a camp manager at basketball. None of them did, except (da da daaaaaa) Parker Lockhart!

We had some food and then a person called Rhi took us on a tour of the camp. She told us lots of information and then we went off to do our activities. My group was Abbey, Tessa, Kate, Seb, Aurora, Aleny, Ahlia, Thomas, Bohdi, Imogen Davis, Ella, Maddie, Stella, and me.

Our first activity was parachute games. We got a big parachute out and did lots of fun activities, then we started playing dodgeball instead. After that, we had lunch. Then we went on the BIG SWING! It was so fun and scary, and I even got to go first! After the swing, we had dinner (spaghetti) and then went on a night walk. Finally, I had a shower and went to bed.

Night time

I went to sleep at 12:00 but woke up at 1:00. The girls (including Imogen, Abbey, and Emme) woke up too, and we just talked and talked and talked... until we got tired and went quiet for a little while.

But then we got loud again! We played some games like Spot It, Uno Flip, and Fat Cats. Eventually, we made our beds and settled in again.

Day 2

On Thursday 14th of August, we woke up and had a few minutes to do whatever we wanted inside. I got changed and played games. Then we were told to go outside to the basketball court. Hours later (it seemed like 10,000,000,000,000 hours later!) we finally had breakfast. Everyone was starving. We had toast and cereal.

After breakfast, we started our activities. My first activity was gaga ball and volleyball, plus some other games. Then we had morning tea (muffins and fruit). Next, we did bouldering and mini golf, which were really fun.

For lunch, we had sausages. After that, our third activity was Games Galore, where we played a bunch of different sports games. At 3:00 pm, we had afternoon tea (fruit and banana bread). Our last activity of the day was radio rogaïne. We got to walk around the whole park with walkie-talkies, doing a scavenger hunt to find numbers and letters.

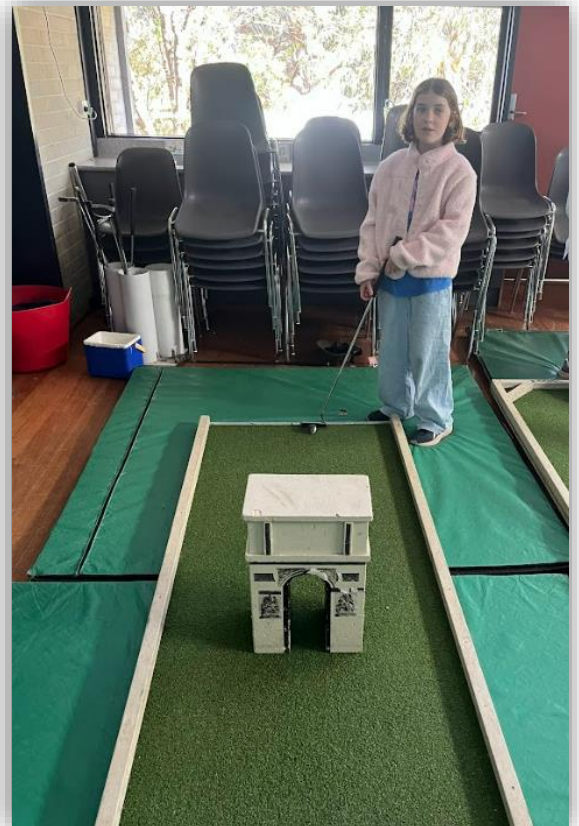
Afterwards, we had to wait a bit before dinner, so we watched a movie. Finally, it was dinner time, chicken with fried rice and vegetables. After dinner, we watched Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. Then I had a quick shower and went to bed.

Night Time

Me and the people in my cabin slept much better than the first night, although I still woke up pretty early.

The Last Day – Day 3

Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—it was the last day!



We woke up and did the same things as the first morning. Breakfast was again toast and cereal. My first activity was the Indigenous Trail. I learnt a lot about Indigenous people, where they lived, and the plants and animals they used.

For morning tea, we had a muffin and fruit. Then we did the crate climb. I was the first person to try it. You stack yellow crates on top of each other and climb up as high as you can—it was awesome!

For lunch, we had chicken salad rolls. Then, at 1:30, we departed YMCA camp.

“Goodbye, lovely camp!” everyone yelled.

(Well... no one actually yelled, but still!)



DIGITAL DANGERZONES

WHAT EVERY PARENT MUST KNOW
BEFORE THEIR CHILD GOES ONLINE.

Is your child:

- starting high school?
- already using devices, social media or gaming?

Then this **free session (18+!)** is a must!

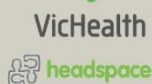


Register here



- knowledgeable guest speakers
- step by step setup for parental controls
- where to turn to for help & support

WEDNESDAY | 3 SEPTEMBER | 6PM
AT COPACC | 95-97 GELLIBRAND STREET
COLAC



proudly funded by
Colac Otway Shire Council in partnership with VicHealth

COLAC CARER EXPO

Tuesday, October 14th, 10 am - 2 pm
St John's Hall
crn Pollack St & Hesse St, Colac

Come along to explore a diverse range of local services and organisations that support carers.

Scan the QR code to book into one of the free workshops on the day.
Limited spots, so get in quick!

Whether you support someone with a disability, mental health condition, chronic illness, eating disorder, or someone who is elderly or neurodivergent, you're invited!

For further information contact Jayne 0428 116 610

