



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 3, Week 9 – 7th September 2026

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

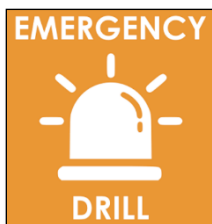


play in your child's life and education.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Ibu Ritchie for generously hosting Pak Bayu this week and volunteering her time to help create our incredible new mural. The students have absolutely loved having Pak Bayu at school. They have enjoyed watching the mural come to life on the back of our Grade 4/5 classroom and have also had the wonderful opportunity to learn more from Bayu about Indonesian culture, language and dance.

A special thank you also goes to Luke Ritchie for helping install the mural. We truly appreciate the time and effort that went into bringing this beautiful artwork to our school.



Emergency Drill

On Tuesday morning, we will be conducting an emergency evacuation drill at school. Emergency drills are a necessary part of our preparation and provide an important opportunity for students and staff to practise our procedures in the unlikely event of an emergency.

The drill will be conducted calmly and safely, with students supported by staff throughout the process. These regular practices help ensure everyone understands what to do and where to go should a real emergency occur.

R U OK? Day

R U OK? Day is officially held on **Thursday 10th September**; however, we will be acknowledging the day at school on **Wednesday 9th September**. While R U OK? Day provides an important opportunity to focus on wellbeing and connection; the message is one we can carry with us every day. **If you're thinking it, Ask R U OK? Any Day.**

The people around us experience life's ups and downs every day. A simple question, a genuine conversation and taking the time to listen without judgement can make a real difference.

Teachers will support students with activities throughout the day, and we will also be hosting a **free** BBQ at lunchtime, with one sausage provided for each student. We will have music playing during lunchtime too, creating a fun opportunity for our students to come together, connect and enjoy some time as a school community.

In support of R U OK? Day, students and staff are invited to wear a splash of **yellow**, such as a yellow hair tie, wristband, socks, shoelaces, zinc or wig. Please note that this is not a casual clothes day. Families are also encouraged to explore the free resources available through the [R U OK? website](#).

Ask R U OK? Any Day, because a conversation could change a life.

If you're thinking it...

Ask
R U OK?
ANY DAY

School Councillors – Kelly Dodds, Emily McDonald, Cassie Stephens, Sarah Green, Katie Delahunty, Belinda Matheson, Alistair Burrell, Jaymie Lowe.

Parent & Friends Meeting – this Thursday

Our next Parents & Friends meeting will be held this **Thursday 10th September** at 9:00am at the Birre Grocer.

We will be getting together for a cuppa and to discuss upcoming events, with a particular focus on planning for a community Market Day stall. All parents and friends of the school are warmly invited to come along. It is a great opportunity to share ideas, lend a hand and be involved in supporting our school community. We hope to see you there!

JSC Disco

Our annual JSC Disco is this **Friday 11th September** from 5:30 - 7:00pm at the Birregurra Hall. This year's theme is **NEON**, so we are looking forward to seeing lots of bright and colourful outfits! All students from Prep to Grade 6 are invited to attend. Entry is by gold coin donation. Parents are not required to stay. Once students have entered the disco, there will be no pass outs, so please ensure students have everything they need before entering. It promises to be a fantastic evening of music, dancing, and good vibes! We can't wait to see everyone there!

Parent/Teacher Conversations

Our Term Three Parent-Teacher Conversations will take place during the final week of term on:

- **Tuesday 15th September, 3:30pm to 4:30pm**
- **Wednesday 16th September, 3:30pm to 4:30pm**
- **Thursday 17th September, 3:30pm to 4:30pm**

Conversations will be for 10 minutes via telephone with teachers phoning parents at the nominated time. These conversations are optional and provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to touch base about student learning, progress and wellbeing. Bookings are now open on XUNO.

Footy Colours Day

To celebrate the end of term, we will be holding a Footy Colours Day on the last day of Term Three, **Friday 18th of September**! Students and staff are invited to come dressed in their favourite sporting colours or team gear. When we say footy, we mean all sports, including AFL, junior football teams, soccer, basketball, netball, baseball and more. If you do not have a favourite team, simply come along in something colourful and join in the fun!

This day will also include a Hot Dog Special Lunch Order. Orders can be placed between now and Wednesday 16th September 9am on Spriggy Schools. Late orders can not be accepted! If you can help out with cooking and serving the hotdogs, please contact the school office.

We look forward to seeing the school filled with colour as we celebrate the end of another fantastic term!

Attendance Matters

Every day at school is a learning day, and regular attendance is important for your child's learning, wellbeing and connection with their classmates. If your child is absent from school, parents and carers are required to notify the school on the same day, explaining the reason for the absence. The school is also required to follow up any unexplained absences to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

If there are circumstances affecting your child's attendance, please reach out to us. We are always here to support families and work together to help every child attend school regularly and make the most of their learning opportunities.



Reminder to participate in the 2026 Parent / Carer Opinion Survey

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Carer Opinion Survey and is seeking your feedback. The survey, offered by the Department of Education, is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement.

We sent you an invitation to complete the survey. If you cannot find the invite, please reach out and we can resend this invitation to you.

The Parent / Carer Opinion Survey will remain open online until Friday 18 September 2026. The survey is being conducted online and only takes 20 minutes to complete. If you require assistance in completing the survey, please reach out to the school. We value your feedback!

Cyber Safety

Cyber safety reminder: The legal minimum age to hold a social media account in Australia is 16 years old.

At Birregurra Primary School, we are committed to partner with families to support our students' safety, wellbeing, and digital citizenship.

As part of our ongoing commitment to cyber safety, we want to share important reminders regarding young children and social media. You may be aware that under Australian law via the [Online Safety Amendment \(Social Media Minimum Age\) Act](#), the legal minimum age to hold a social media account in Australia is 16 years old. Because of this law, no primary school-aged student should have their own profile or account on restricted social media platforms.

Which platforms are restricted?

The [eSafety Commissioner's Age Restrictions Guide](#) confirms that platforms requiring users to be 16 or older include:

- TikTok
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- YouTube (holding an active personal account)
- Facebook
- Threads and X (formerly Twitter)

*Note: While platforms like **YouTube Kids**, **Roblox**, and messaging-only apps like **WhatsApp** are not classified under the same strict under-16 account ban, they still require close parental supervision.*

Why are these restrictions in place?

Primary school students are still developing critical thinking and emotional resilience. Major social media platforms are designed with complex algorithms that pose specific risks to younger children, including:

- *Inappropriate Content:* High risk of accidental exposure to adult themes, mature language, or cyberbullying.
- *Digital Footprint:* Children do not fully comprehend that posts, photos, and comments can become permanent digital records.
- *Sleep and Wellbeing:* The highly engaging design of these apps can easily disrupt sleep routines, homework, and outdoor play.

How you can support your child at home

1. *Check Their Devices:* Check if apps like TikTok or Instagram have been downloaded to your child's phone or tablet.
2. *Use Parental Controls:* Apply family pairing and strict privacy settings to block age-inappropriate app downloads.
3. *Talk Openly:* Discuss online safety as a family. Emphasise that these age limits exist to protect them, not to punish them.
4. *Explore Safer Alternatives:* Encourage safer, age-appropriate alternatives for digital entertainment, such as [YouTube Kids](#) or supervised educational platforms.

While tech platforms face heavy penalties for failing to enforce these age blocks, there are no fines or penalties for children or parents. The responsibility falls on all of us to mentor children through a healthy digital childhood.

For excellent, practical family toolkits, conversation guides, and safety advice, please visit the [eSafety Commissioner Parents Hub](#).

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our community safe online and preventing social issues and fallout between friendships when things are miscommunicated online.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Indi Kelly who was awarded the runner up in the U11 Div 1 Colac and District Netball Association Competition. This is an amazing achievement and we are very proud of her!

Reminders

- After School Arrangements – If there are any changes to your afterschool arrangements, we would appreciate you letting us know by 3pm at the latest to ensure messages can be passed on.
- If your child is not travelling on the bus as normal, you must let the school know.
- Wear a splash of yellow on Wednesday for R U OK? Day – a free sausage per student!
- Breakfast Club is Thursday morning from 8:15am, all welcome!
- JSC Disco is also this Friday!

Wishing everyone a wonderful week.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

Bridging Cultures – Indonesian Language and Art Immersion

What an incredible week we've had! We were so lucky to welcome Pak Bayu, a visiting Indonesian teacher and artist from Yogyakarta, who shared so much wonderful language and culture with our students.

The children learnt some traditional Indonesian dance, and in Art lessons they explored the beautiful traditions of batik and wayang (shadow puppets). We've also loved watching our mural come together, which will soon have pride of place near the back gate. The students have been captivated watching the process unfold, and we can't wait to share the finished artwork with our school community. This visit was possible thanks to a Bridging Cultures grant from the Australian Government and the Australian-Indonesian Institute, with thanks to Bayu Prihantoro, Mrs Ritchie, and Helena Anggraeni from Dromana College who were part of the grant application process.

Terima kasih for a fantastic week of cultural learning and connection!



Bridging Cultures

Indonesian Language
and Art Immersion

Birregurra Primary School

31 August – 6 September 2026





JSC DISCO

NEON THEME

⇒ **FRIDAY** ⇒
11TH SEPTEMBER

5.30PM – 7PM

**POPCORN AND
FRUIT PROVIDED**


**GOLD COIN
DONATION**

**BYO
WATER
BOTTLES**

**BRIGHT LIGHTS, LOUD MUSIC,
GOOD VIBES, GREAT DANCING!**



BIRREGURRA HALL

Dates for the Diary...

Monday 7 th September	- Milo Monday - School Council 6.30pm
Tuesday 8 th September	- Toastie Tuesday
Wednesday 9 th September	- JSC RUOK Day?
Thursday 10 th September	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 11 th September	- JSC Disco 5.30pm – 7pm
Monday 14 th September	- Milo Monday - Clubs 12.30pm
Tuesday 15 th September	- Toastie Tuesday - Whole School Photo
Thursday 17 th September	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 18 th September	- Assembly 1.45pm, Grade 3/4 Class Presentation - Last Day of Term 3, 2.15pm finish
TERM 4	
Monday 5 th October	- Term 4 Commences
Thursday 8 th October	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 9 th October	- Greater Western Athletics – selected students
Thursday 15 th October	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 16 th October	- Gr 5/6 BioLab - Assembly 2.45pm, Grade 2/3 Class Presentation
Thursday 22 nd October	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Monday 26 th October	- School Council 6.30pm
Thursday 29 th October	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 30 th October	- World Teachers' Day - Assembly 2.45pm, Grade 1/2 Class Presentation
Saturday 31 st October	- Otway Women's Day 12pm-5pm
Tuesday 3 rd November	- Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thursday 5 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 6 th November	- Talent Quest & Market Day
Thursday 12 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 13 th November	- STOMP - Assembly 2.45pm, Prep Class Presentation

Students of the Week

Respect	Elise N	For the thoughtful way you interact with everyone. You always go out of your way to help anyone who needs it. Thank you for showing respect and kindness to everyone.
	Arlo S	For always showing kindness, respect and enthusiasm towards your peers. You bring so much fun and joy to our classroom and are always willing to work with everyone. Thank you for helping make our classroom such a positive and welcoming place to learn!
	Vivi R	For showing kindness and respect towards others while we were away at camp. You were always respectful and considerate towards the students in your group and cabin, helping to create a positive environment for everyone. Well done Vivi!
	Zeb C	For showing kindness and respect towards others while we were away at camp. You were always checking in on those around you and looking out for others. Your caring and thoughtful nature did not go unnoticed. Keep being amazing, Zeb!
	Tessa M	For being an amazing teacher's helper on the Grade 3/4 Sovereign Hill Camp. You showed great responsibility, kindness and initiative by helping teachers and supporting others throughout the camp. Thanks Tess!
	Flynn L	For showing kindness to your fellow classmates and being respectful to your teachers. Well done Flynn, keep up the great work!
Excellence	Bessie B	For your enthusiasm during our writing sessions. You always try your best and are willing to take feedback on and challenge yourself. Go Bess!
	Bridget S	For your enthusiasm and participation during our Text Based sessions. You listened to feedback from the previous day and worked hard to apply it when identifying the different parts of a paragraph. Well done, Bridget!
	Sabi M	For demonstrating excellence throughout our time at camp. You approached each new experience with enthusiasm, and always gave your best effort. You should be very proud of yourself, Sabi!
	Van B	For demonstrating excellence throughout our time at camp. You embraced every experience with a positive attitude and gave each activity your very best. Your determination and willingness to make the most of every opportunity was wonderful to see. You should be so proud of yourself, Van!
	Soraya M	For starting your work straight away and always putting your best effort into everything you do. Your focus, determination and commitment to doing your best is fantastic to see. Keep it up Soraya!
	Stevie G	For excelling in your recent Maths CAT. You have shown great persistence and a growth mindset in Maths sessions. Keep up the great work Stevie!
Art	Augie C	For his carefully designed and beautifully rainbow inked glue batik design. Well done Augie, your efforts really show!
Indonesian	Grade 2/3	For the way you all learnt the Lir-Ilir dance with Pak Bayu. You showed respect and enthusiasm and it was a joy to watch you all give it your very best. You should be so proud of the excellence and energy you brought to learning something new. Bagus!
Phys Ed	Nate B	For his willingness to try and play bat tennis with his opposite hand while being in a sling! What a wonderful example of resilience!
STEAM	Sam G	For his thoughtful letter writing and thorough research toward his Australian Manufacturing Research Project. Well done Sam and great work!

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Noah T

For being an absolute superstar on camp,
embracing all opportunities.



2026 CWA POLWARTH GROUP CREATIVE ART & HOME INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION

Come & see us at the
Colac Show

SATURDAY 7TH November 2026

Bruce St Colac
Homecraft Hall

Official Opening @ 10.00am

Devonshire Tea
& Cake stall Available

ALL WELCOME

RU OK?

DAY



A small
chat can
make a big
difference!



WEAR A TOUCH OF YELLOW!

WEDNESDAY
9TH SEPTEMBER

Show you care. Ask R U OK?
and support your friends, every day.

FREE BBQ!



1 SAUSAGE FOR
EACH STUDENT!

MUSIC!



AT LUNCHTIME

Be kind. Be a good mate.
R U OK?

TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
OUR SCHOOL A
GREAT PLACE
FOR EVERYONE!

FOOTY COLOURS DAY!



Let's celebrate the end
of the AFL season!

FRIDAY
18TH SEPTEMBER

= WEAR YOUR =

FOOTY COLOURS!

= OR =

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE
SPORTS TEAM COLOURS!

SHOW YOUR TEAM
= SPIRIT! =

WEAR IT PROUD. CELEBRATE TOGETHER.
= GO TEAM! =





SPECIAL



LUNCH ORDER DAY!

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

**FOOTY
COLOURS DAY!**



**HOT DOGS
ON THE MENU!**



**ORDER VIA
SPRIGGY SCHOOLS**



Father's Day Breakfast







Gymnastics with Grant Nel

Students from our Prep, 1–2 and 2–3 classes have had the privilege of beginning a three-week block of Gymnastics sessions with Grant Nel.



We are extremely fortunate to have Grant working with our students. Grant represented Australia for 16 years at national and international level in Diving, competing at the Delhi and Glasgow Commonwealth Games, the Rio Olympic Games and four World Championships.

Grant enjoyed significant success on the international stage, winning a bronze medal at the Delhi Commonwealth Games in 2010 and both silver and bronze medals at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

Before embarking on his international diving career, Grant was a competitive gymnast. Following an injury that prevented him from continuing with gymnastics, Grant transferred his movement skills to Diving, where he went on to enjoy an outstanding international career.

During the three-week program, Grant will draw on his extensive experience in both gymnastics and diving to develop students' fundamental movement skills, with a particular focus on jumping, tumbling and learning how to fall safely. Students will develop body control, coordination, balance, strength and confidence while learning to move safely and effectively.

It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from someone with such extensive experience at the highest levels of gymnastics and diving. We look forward to seeing their skills and confidence develop throughout the program.

- Brendan King



SEASON 2026-27

WE ARE COMMUNITY

Come and
try Athletics!



CLAIM YOUR 2-WEEK TRIAL PERIOD



Serenity
IN THE STADIUM

SUN 11 OCT • 9AM
GMHBA STADIUM, GEELONG

GROUP BOOKINGS

Sunrise yoga on the oval at GMHBA Stadium.

Book a block of spots for your workplace, team, class or community group and share a feel-good start to the day — good for your people, good for the cause.

- ☀️ Held during World Mental Health Month
- ☀️ Every ticket backs mental health and wellbeing in Geelong

GROUP RATE

\$38

per person, groups of
5 or more

Book your group

COLAC KIDS FESTIVAL

Wednesday, 30 September
10AM - 3PM



A FUN-FILLED DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

At the Bluewater Stadium, 118-134 Hearn St, Colac VIC 3250

WHAT'S IN STORE?

The Mik Mals live at 11am
Plus Melbourne Stars, Red Door Theatre Co, DJ Dance Party by Kris Seabert, Wildlife Xposure, free swimming, free popcorn, fairy floss, Free smoothie bike, face painting, arts and craft, food vans, interactive stalls and more!

Entry by \$5 donation per child, with sponsorship available. No child will be turned away. Families who need support can contact Colac Salvos before the event on 0484 935 165.

Food vans, snacks and treats available for purchase on the day.

YOUR DONATION HELPS LOCAL KIDS, STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS GROW IN CONFIDENCE, CONNECTION AND HOPE.
Funds raised support Colac Salvos programs including Mini Movers, Engage and Second Shift.

THE SALVATION ARMY
MIXXFM
Bluewater
Colac Otway
are-able
Herold
reddoor
Fennell West

Angair Wildflower & Arts Show



**ANGLESEA COMMUNITY HUB
MCMILLAN ST**

**Saturday & Sunday
19th & 20th
Sept 2026**

10am to 4pm



Image, Jewel Beetle, John Lenagan

Wildflower displays, plant sales, guided walking tours, educational displays, kids activities, art show and sales, food and drink stalls.




Trauma Acceptance Commitment Therapy Program

An 8-week practical, group program for women (aged 18 plus) who have been impacted by sexual assault and family violence, and who are experiencing post-traumatic stress symptoms.

Colac Program
2026 Group Sessions
When: Tuesday 6th of October 2026 (the first of 8 sessions)
Where: Colac - TBC

The Trauma Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (TACT) Program is based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and is underpinned by research and evidence on trauma. The TACT Program is a joint initiative of The Sexual Assault and Family Violence Centre and Colac Area Health, with group sessions held in both regions.

Participants Learn:

- Skills to assist with identifying and understanding the symptoms of trauma from sexual assault and family violence.
- Practical techniques to assist with managing the symptoms and triggers of trauma, gained through individual and group-based learning and discussion, as well as skills such as mindfulness, writing, music, art, and the use of nature.

More Information
Please contact Tracey in the TACT program team at Colac Area Health on 03 5232 5100 or 0499 323 782

THE VICTORIA
Trauma Acceptance and Commitment Therapy is proudly funded by the Victorian State Government.

The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre
COLAC AREA Health

FUNDRAISER FOR BIRREGURRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tickets Are On Sale Now!



Join us for Otways Women's Day and help raise funds for new play equipment at Birregurra Primary School.

 INSPIRATIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS	 LOCAL DRINKS & CANAPÉS	 LIVE AUCTION	 A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON FOR A GREAT CAUSE
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 **SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026**
12.00 - 5.00PM
BIRREGURRA MECHANICS HALL

Book now
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

EVERY TICKET HELPS BUILD SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BIRREGURRA.

Purchase your tickets here

For more information –
please see our Instagram Page - @otwayswd or Facebook – Otway Women's Day