

ISSUE 9 | Monday 12th of October 2026

NEWSLETTER

Respect | Resilience | Responsibility



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Principal Report

Welcome back!

Welcome to Term 4. I hope our students and families enjoyed the school holiday break and have returned ready for a productive and rewarding final term. Across both campuses, our focus remains on supporting students to make progress in their learning, strengthen their connections and participate fully in College life.

Celebrating the Class of 2026

Our final Year 12 assembly will be held on the afternoon of Friday 16 October from 1.30pm in the gym at the Drysdale Campus. We warmly invite Year 12 parents and carers to join us in acknowledging and celebrating the Class of 2026. This is an opportunity to recognise our students' achievements, contributions and growth throughout their secondary schooling, and to thank the families and staff who have supported them along the way.

The next four weeks are particularly important as Year 12 students finalise their course requirements and undertake their end-of-year examinations. Maintaining a clear study routine, responding to feedback and seeking assistance will help students approach these final requirements with confidence. Although formal classes are ending, support from their teachers continues. Class teachers remain available to assist with examination preparation, clarify understanding and provide guidance. We strongly encourage students to arrange times to come into school and meet with their teachers, bringing questions, practice responses or areas they would like to strengthen. Thank you to our teachers and families for their continued encouragement and care during this significant period.

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24 Hour Absence Line

5251 9010



Find us on



Supporting focus and connection

Recall that Year 7-9 students are required to hand in their mobile phones during Home Group each morning. Phones are stored securely and returned at the end of the school day. This routine supports students to give their attention to learning and to engage directly with their peers and teachers throughout the day. Time away from mobile devices also creates space for conversation, participation and connection during breaks. Leaving phones at home, of course, remains the preferred option where practical. Thank you to parents and carers for reinforcing these expectations and supporting a focused learning environment. Year 10 -12 students are required to either leave their mobile phones at home or leave them secured in their lockers from 8.55am until the end of the school day.

Ocean Grove campus facilities

Families may have seen Alison Marchant’s recent media release outlining an election commitment to capital investment in our Ocean Grove campus. The proposed investment would provide an opportunity to improve facilities that support student learning and wellbeing at our junior campus. This remains an election commitment, with delivery subject to the election outcome and subsequent government decisions. The College maintains an apolitical position and will continue to advocate for the facilities needs of both campuses and keep our community informed as further details become available.

Every day matters

Attendance remains a priority throughout Term 4. Each school day provides valuable opportunities for students to develop their understanding, receive feedback, complete assessments and stay connected with their classmates and teachers. Regular attendance is especially important as students consolidate the year’s learning and prepare for their next stage of schooling.

Term 4 also offers many diverse opportunities through classroom learning, excursions, practical activities, sport, performances and transition programs as well as our end of year activities program for junior students. Being present and involved enables students to make the most of these experiences. Please continue to support daily attendance and punctuality, and contact us early if your child is experiencing difficulties attending school so we can work together to help to ensure that every student is at school every day!

I look forward to a positive final term and thank our families for their ongoing partnership and support.

Principal Mr Wayne Johannesen



Ocean Grove Campus term 4 images



WMR Track and Field Championships images on Wednesday 7 October





Important Dates



October	
Friday 16th	Final Year 12 Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 21st	Geelong Cup –Student Free Day
Tuesday 27th	VCE Examinations commence until the 18th of November
Friday 30th	World Teachers Day!
November	
Tuesday 3rd	Student Free Day -Staff P/L
Monday 9th	Year 9 ECO 5 Camp –Great Otway National Park
Wednesday 18th	Year 12 Valedictory Dinner: 1915
December	
Wednesday 2nd	Year 7 Parent / Guardian Information Evening - Arrive 5:45pm for a 6pm start -7pm Finish
Friday 4th	Report Writing Day—Student Free Day
Tuesday 8-9th	2027 Year 7 Discovery Days
Thursday 10th	2026 VCE Final Results available to students
Friday 11th	End of Year Activities- Adventure Park
Tuesday 15th	Awards Night—Costa Hall
January	
Thursday 28th	Student / Parent / Guardian “Ready to Learn” Conference Day. Years 7, 9 and 11.
Friday 29th	Years 7, 9 and 12 Commence
Monday 1 st	Years 8, 10 and 11 Commence

Support and Communication

House Leaders are generally the first point of contact for parents and carers seeking support. Early communication allows us to work together to support student wellbeing, engagement and learning.

	Corio	Lonsdale	Nepean	Swan
Year 7 & 8	Caitlyn Carter	Jevon Nicholas	Tom Roberts	Ryan Shaw
Year 9 & 10	Bree Redden	Jenny McCarthy	Annie Oliver	Jacqui Slattery
Year 11 & 12	Merryn Chalmers	Suzanne Mack	Jess Armstrong	Omar Lewis

Farm My School

Veggie Boxes

Farm My School veggie boxes are packed with nutrient dense, fresh and seasonal produce. Grown on site by our farm team and Bellarine Secondary College students.

Each veggie box order supports hands-on learning and real-world education.

Keep BSC students engaged, healthy, focused, inspired and hopeful!

Shop veggie boxes via <https://farmmyschool.ooooby.org> Reminder of 10% discount for subscribers + 20% (SCHOOL20) = 30% for BSC community.

Nourish Workshops

Nourish workshops are regular community sessions that are facilitated by local growers and makers or renowned chefs and gardeners to teach participants simple skills and build confidence with growing and cooking affordable, nutritious meals.

Bookings are essential via <https://events.humanitix.com/host/farm-my-school> Limited spots available.

Farm My School Elective

The Farm My School Elective is offered to students in Year 10 to learn about permaculture, regenerative farming, soil health, and sustainable food systems at the Drysdale campus. **Email** grow@farmmyschool.com.au to find out more detail.

Team Building Experiences

Farm My School Team Building Experiences are like nothing you've ever experienced before! Corporates and groups are invited to get out in nature, engage in meaningful tasks, build cohesion, learn principles of regenerative farming, harvest produce and enjoy a healthy meal together.

Experiences are available for 1 to 150 people from Two Hour Tasters to Full Farm Day sessions, or tailor your own experience. Enquire via an email to michelle@farmmyschool.com.au.

Visit the Farm My School website <https://www.farmmyschool.com/> for further information on the model, its goals, its purpose, its offerings and its future plans.



FARM MY SCHOOL VEGGIEBOX



PICK UP AND
BELLARINE
DELIVERY
AVAILABLE

REGENERATIVELY GROWN
FRESH SEASONAL
ORGANIC PRODUCE

BELLARINE
COLAC

ORDER
HERE



FARM MY
SCHOOL

Growing Our Future

Student Wellbeing

All staff are in a position to provide emotional support for the young people of Bellarine Secondary College. There is a Student Wellbeing Team at each campus that can be a valuable first contact for information and assistance. Members of the Wellbeing team are available to both students and parents/guardians to discuss matters concerning a particular students' welfare, needs or problems. The team is accessible by making an appointment.

The Wellbeing Team is focussed on proactive education to support young people develop their skills related to resilience, personal safety, and positive coping related to their own wellbeing and mental health.

The work of the Wellbeing Team across the College includes:

- 1:1 Support in the form of counselling, resilience building, and referrals to community support services such as mental health services, family support and allied health services.
- 1:2 Leading school-based small group programs and coordinating external small group programs.
- 1:3 Coordinating national health promotion events such as Mental Health Week, IDAHOBIT Day, and RU OK? Day.

When students access a health or counselling service at school, they have the right to provide or withhold consent to their personal or health information, obtained from them, from being disclosed to any other person, including their parent/guardian.

An Individual acquires that right when they have sufficient maturity to understand the consequences of this disclosure. Unless a student has an intellectual disability or is particularly immature, it is likely that a secondary student has the capacity to make this choice.

Where disclosure or health information is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious imminent threat to the student's health or safety, consent by a student to do this disclosure of information is not required.

If a secondary student self-refers to a counselling service provided to students at school, the College does not have to disclose this to parent's / guardians. However, consent from the student to share information with a parent/guardian or staff is always sought, when it is in the best interests of the student.

The College Wellbeing Team is as follows

LOCAL RESOURCES

The Wellbeing team may make referrals to local services or provide support for students and families to access valuable health and Wellbeing online.

Student Wellbeing Team	School Nurse	Mental Health Practitioner
Nicole Wirth, Ocean Grove and Drysdale	Mel White, Ocean Grove and Drysdale Campus	Renae Schomacker Ocean Grove and Drysdale
Jan Bowes, Drysdale		
Kate Grinter, Drysdale		Samson – Wellbeing Dog
Kate Daley Ocean Grove		

2026 World Mental Health Day About Mental Health Month and World Mental Health Day



Mental Health Month is held in October each year, with World Mental Health Day taking place on 10 October.

This is an important moment to raise awareness of mental health, reduce stigma and encourage people to seek support when they need it.

It's also an opportunity to pause, check in with ourselves and those around us, and reflect on how we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Health Australia, the national peak body for the mental health sector, coordinates the national Mental Health Month campaign. This year's theme is Together We Thrive.

Whether at home, at work, at school, in the community or online, this Mental Health Month we're encouraging everyone to start conversations, share their stories and strengthen the connections that help us thrive.

The official 2026 World Mental Health Day theme is set by the World Federation for Mental Health. This year the global theme is Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change.

2026 Theme: Together We Thrive

The 2026 theme for Mental Health Month and World Mental Health Day is Together we Thrive. It recognises that while life can often feel overwhelming, connection remains one of the most powerful ways to support our mental health and wellbeing. Right now, life feels like a lot. Global conflict and uncertainty, rising costs and constant change are leaving many people feeling overwhelmed and disconnected. It's feeling harder to find common ground or stay connected to what we share. And it's taking a toll on our mental health.

At our core, our needs remain the same – to feel safe, understood and to know we matter.

Ten Keys to Happier Living new guidebook v4



2026 World Mental Health Day



AWARENESS

Live life mindfully



Have you ever felt there must be more to life? Well good news, there is! And it's right here in front of us. We just need to stop and take notice. Learning to be more mindful and aware does wonders for our well-being, whether it's on our walk to work, the way we eat or in our relationships. It helps us get in tune with our feelings and stops us dwelling on the past or worrying about the future - so we get more out of the day-to-day.



TRYING OUT

Keep learning new things



Learning affects our well-being in lots of positive ways. It exposes us to new ideas and helps us stay curious and engaged. It also gives us a sense of accomplishment and helps boost our self-confidence and resilience. There are many ways to learn new things throughout our lives, not just through formal qualifications. We can share a skill with friends, join a club, learn to sing, play a new sport and so much more.



DIRECTION

Have goals to look forward to



Feeling good about the future is really important for our happiness. We all need goals to motivate us and these have to be challenging enough to excite us, but also achievable. If we try to attempt the impossible this creates unnecessary stress. Choosing meaningful but realistic goals gives our lives direction and brings a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction when we achieve them.



RESILIENCE

Find ways to bounce back



All of us have times of stress, loss, failure or trauma in our lives. How we respond to these events has a big impact on our well-being. We often cannot choose what happens to us, but we can choose how we react to what happens. In practice it's not always easy, but one of the most exciting findings from recent research is that resilience, like many other life skills, can be learned.



EMOTIONS

Look for what's good



Positive emotions - like joy, gratitude, contentment, inspiration, and pride - don't just feel good when we experience them. They also help us perform better, broaden our perception, increase our resilience and improve our physical health. So although we need to be realistic about life's ups and downs, it helps to focus on the good aspects of any situation - the glass half full rather than the glass half empty.



ACCEPTANCE

Be comfortable with who you are



No-one's perfect. But so often we compare a negative view of ourselves with an unrealistic view of other people. Dwelling on our flaws - what we're not rather than what we've got - makes it much harder to be happy. Learning to accept ourselves, warts and all, and being kinder to ourselves when things go wrong, increases our enjoyment of life, our resilience and our well-being. It also helps us accept others as they are.

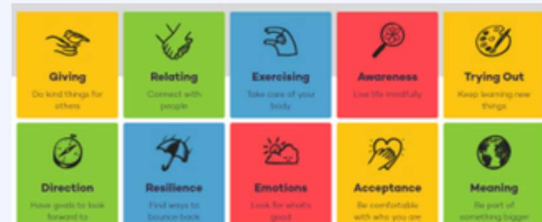


MEANING

Be part of something bigger



People who have meaning and purpose in their lives are happier, feel more in control and get more out of what they do. They also experience less stress, anxiety and depression. But where do we find meaning and purpose? It might come from doing a job that makes a difference, our religious or spiritual beliefs, or our family. The answers vary for each of us but they all involve being connected to something bigger than ourselves.



For monthly Calenders for Actions to Happiness us this QR code. please find attached the October monthly calendars



For further support here is some support services

Central Geelong Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub: Call

1800 573 151

or visit in person at 181Moorabool St, Geelong, for support.

Head to Help: Call

1800 595 2121800

for a free intake, advice, and referral service for Victorians. They have a hub in North Geelong and can connect you with suitable services or provide care through telehealth.

Beyond Blue: Provides

Advertisements

Hockey Roadshow Programs

You are also invited to participate in the Hockey Geelong Roadshow Program which offers local schools the opportunity to host a practical Hockey session, free of charge.

The Roadshow program provides hockey clinics for student classes at any level according to your preference. All equipment and coaches (with WWCC) to lead the sessions will be supplied by Hockey Geelong.

Sessions are generally 40 to 60 minutes depending on your timetable, with a maximum of 30 students per class. A teacher is required to be present during each session, and their involvement in the activities is greatly appreciated.

Hockey Geelong and its affiliated clubs are very keen to show students what fun hockey can be. As one of the minor sports, it is unfamiliar to many, so the programs provide the chance to actually try the sport out.

The school hockey sessions are usually followed by the opportunity for interested students to further explore hockey outside of school and determine whether this may be a new sport for them.

Funding is also available through the Sporting Schools program, provided by Sport Australia. This funding allows schools to offer programs which run over a number of weeks for each class. Requests for this program are submitted via the Sporting Schools website, and Hockey Victoria will then contact Hockey Geelong to provide these programs.

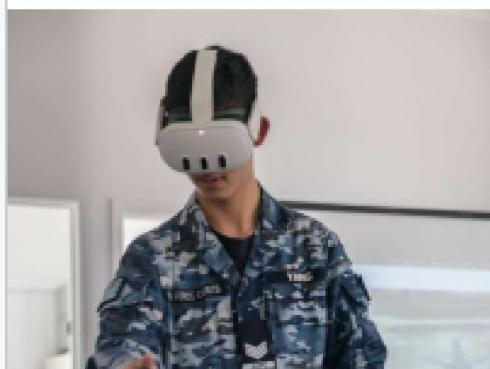
<https://www.sportaus.gov.au/schools/schools/funding>

If you would like to host a hockey program at your school, please reply to me at this email, with some suggested dates/ days which would fit into your class schedule, and I will contact you to make further arrangements.





429SQN is recruiting now!



Become an Air Force Cadet

The Australian Air Force Cadets No. 429 Squadron -Queenscliff are recruiting for their next intake.

If you're at least 12 years of age and turning 13 (Year 7) to 16 and have an interest in aviation, drones, STEM, leadership and personal development, bushcraft, a career in the Australian Defence Force, or just want to make new friends, we're keen to have you join our ranks.

You'll learn many new skills and have a lot of fun along the way.

We are sponsored by the Royal Australian Air Force and you will have the opportunity to fly and visit Defence bases in Victoria, and so much more.

Submit an Expression of Interest online from Oct 1st via the QR code for 2027.

429 Squadron Queenscliff

FLTLT (AAFC) Lucy Croxford

Commanding Officer

ENQUIRIES:

co.429SQN@airforcecadets.gov.au

FIND OUT MORE:

www.airforcecadets.gov.au

Information Session:

When: 12th October 2026 at 6.30pm

Where: The Fort Queenscliff.

You must register to attend.

Register via the above email.



AIR FORCE CADETS

INSPIRING TODAY - LEADING TOMORROW

Preparing for schoolies

Many students are looking forward to celebrating the end of secondary school with their friends at schoolies celebrations.

In Victoria, schoolies will run from Saturday 28 November to Saturday 12 December. Schoolies celebrations can go beyond these dates across Australia and overseas.

We encourage parents and carers to speak early and openly with their child about their plans for schoolies. This includes any travel plans.

This can help them to think ahead, make safer choices and know what to do if something goes wrong. It may help to talk about alcohol and other drug use, sex and consent, personal safety, and what to do in an emergency.

You may talk with your child about other risks and staying safe while travelling overseas. The deaths of Bianca Jones and Holly Bowles, 2 Victorian teenagers who died from methanol poisoning while travelling in Laos in 2024, are a tragic reminder of why this is important.

Useful resources for families and young people.

We encourage you to talk about and share these resources with your child:

- Raising Children Network, for advice on how to help students [plan for and stay safe during schoolies](#)
- Better Health Channel, for advice on [partying safely at schoolies](#)
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation, for advice on [staying safe at schoolies](#) and information on [potential alcohol and drug harms when travelling](#)
- Victoria Police, for advice on [staying safe at school leaver celebrations](#). The page includes videos about sexual assault, illegal drugs and road safety
- Red Frogs Australia, a volunteer group that helps young people stay safe and seek help at events like schoolies, with tips and advice for [students](#) and [families](#) including a 24/7 hotline during schoolies
- Smartraveller, for advice on [overseas travel for school leavers](#) and [partying safely](#)
- Doctors without Borders, for information on [methanol poisoning](#) for travellers
- MethaKnow [methanol awareness Instagram page](#), to help raise awareness about methanol poisoning.

Mel White (she/her) |

Adolescent Health Promotion Nurse Barwon Area

Health, Wellbeing and Specialist Services | South Western Victoria Region

REDFROGS
AUSTRALIA

- Schoolies is a time when school leavers come together to celebrate the end of an important milestone – the end of their school education.
- Plan ahead so you know what to do if things get out of hand. Before leaving, reflect on your feelings towards sex, alcohol and drugs – think about what you're prepared to do and where you want to draw the line.
- Partying is fun – use your head, stick with your friends and look out for each other.
- There are a number of risks involved when you're affected by drugs and alcohol. Try not to drink too much, and if you do take drugs, know how to reduce the risks.

Help your learner get on the road with a free driving lesson!

The myLearners Free Driving Lesson program offers a FREE 60-minute Lesson with a professional driving instructor for learners aged 16–21 who have completed 10–50 hours of driving practice.

The lesson is taken alongside their supervising driver, helping both the learner and supervisor build safer, more confident driving habits together.

This program supports families by making the learning experience more positive and less stressful. It aims to reduce crash risks for young drivers, strengthen supervising skills, and encourage safer driving behaviours early on all at no cost to participants.

Find out more go to - <https://mylearnersdrive.com.au/>



TAC

VICTORIA
State Government

Department
of Transport
and Planning

