

— ISSUE 9 | Monday 14th of September 2026 —

NEWSLETTER

Respect | Resilience | Responsibility



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24 Hour Absence Line

5251 9010



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Principal Report

As Term 3 draws to a close, it is valuable to pause and reflect on what has been another busy and productive term at our College.

At the heart of our work has been the teaching and learning taking place in classrooms across both campuses. Throughout the term, our students have been challenged, supported and encouraged to strengthen their knowledge, skills and confidence. This has been complemented by a diverse range of extracurricular activities, excursions, performances, sporting opportunities, camps and community partnerships that have engaged students and extended their learning beyond the classroom.

These experiences are only possible because of the commitment of our staff. I sincerely thank our teachers and education support staff for their ongoing dedication to our students and for the many additional hours involved in providing such a comprehensive program. Their collective work ensures that our students have access to opportunities that support their academic progress, wellbeing, personal development and connection to the College.

I also acknowledge the important contribution of our parents and carers. Your encouragement, communication and support of learning, attendance and participation make a significant difference. The partnership between home and school remains central to helping every student achieve their best.

The end of the term provides students with an opportunity to reflect honestly on their own engagement. Have they attended regularly, approached their learning positively and made the most of the opportunities available to them? Have they participated fully, asked for assistance when needed and challenged themselves to try something new? Reflection is most valuable when it leads to action, and I encourage every student to identify what they can continue or improve when they return for Term 4.

Principal Report Continued

Term 3 concluded with Celebration Assemblies across the College, providing an important opportunity to recognise students for their attendance, engagement, learning growth and academic achievement. I congratulate all students whose commitment, effort and progress were acknowledged. These celebrations recognise not only high achievement, but also the persistence, improvement and positive learning behaviours that enable students to experience success.

The final day of Term 3 also included Community Picnics for our Year 7 and 8 students spending time at the beach in both Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads. These activities were designed to strengthen relationships, enhance students' sense of connectedness and provide a positive opportunity for students and staff to celebrate the conclusion of the term together. Experiences such as these are an important part of building a welcoming and inclusive College community in which students feel known, supported and that they belong.

The final week of term also featured the final VET Music Performance Night at the Esplanade Hotel in Queenscliff. Across Terms 2 and 3, these public performances have provided our students with authentic opportunities to develop their musical skills, confidence and stagecraft in a live performance environment. Performing for a public audience has enhanced their learning and enabled them to apply the knowledge and skills developed through their VET Music studies.

I acknowledge and thank Mc McEwan and the Music Support Staff whose commitment has made these evenings possible, along with the families, friends and members of the school community who have attended and so enthusiastically supported our students throughout Terms 2 and 3. The final performance night also served as a fundraiser to support the Year 12 Valedictory, adding another valuable contribution to an already memorable evening.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance must remain a priority. It can be easy to view an occasional absence as inconsequential, but these days accumulate quickly. Missing just one day each fortnight equates to approximately 20 days - or four full weeks - of learning across a school year. Missing one day each week means being absent for around 20 per cent of the school year.

The impact extends well beyond the lessons missed on a particular day. Absences can create gaps in understanding, interrupt the sequence of learning and make it more difficult for students to keep pace with their classmates. They can also affect friendships, relationships with teachers, participation in group activities and a student's overall sense of belonging.

Term 4 will again provide students with a wonderful and diverse range of learning experiences, programs and extracurricular activities. To capitalise fully on these opportunities, students need to be present, engaged and ready to learn every day. Each day at school matters and provides another opportunity to make academic progress, strengthen relationships, build confidence and contribute positively to College life.

While illness and unavoidable circumstances will occur, being at school every day must be the goal for all students in Term 4. I ask parents and carers to continue working with the College to support regular attendance and to contact us early if there are barriers affecting their child's capacity to attend.

Principal Report Continued

Mobile Phone Protocols

In Term 4, the College will extend its existing mobile phone protocols. From term 4, Year 9 students will join Year 7 and 8 students in handing in their mobile phones at the beginning of the school day during Home Group. Phones will be securely stored and returned to students at the end of the day.

While students have been expected to keep their mobile phones switched off and securely stored in their lockers, we recognise that many continue to carry them in their pockets. Even when a phone is not actively being used, its immediate availability can create an ongoing distraction and temptation to check messages, social media or notifications. Securely storing phones for the entire day removes this temptation, provides greater clarity and consistency, and allows students to focus more fully on their learning and relationships.

Students in Years 10 to 12 will continue to be required to switch off their mobile phones and leave them securely stored in their lockers throughout the school day. **However, the most reliable way to ensure that students are free from the distraction and temptation of their phones is to leave them at home. We encourage families to consider whether their child genuinely needs to bring a mobile phone to school each day.**

A school day without access to a mobile phone gives students valuable time away from notifications, social media and the pressure to remain continually connected. It supports improved concentration, more active participation in learning and greater engagement with teachers and classmates. It also encourages face-to-face conversation during breaks, strengthens social connections and enables students to participate more fully in College life.

Reducing access to mobile phones may also lessen conflict, anxiety and other wellbeing concerns associated with online messaging and social media. Importantly, it gives young people a regular opportunity to develop healthier boundaries with technology and to experience the benefits of being fully present in their learning and interactions with others.

This initiative is intended to create calmer and more purposeful learning environments while making it easier for students to meet the College's expectations. Its success will require a consistent partnership between the College, students, parents and carers. We ask families to support these expectations and, wherever practical, encourage students to leave their phones at home. Parents or carers who need to contact their child during the school day can continue to do so through the College office.

Year 12 VCE Students

For our Year 12 VCE students, the term break arrives at an especially important point. It provides a valuable opportunity to renew and recharge following a demanding term, while also preparing purposefully for the completion of Unit 4 and the end-of-year examination period.

Balance is important. Students need sleep, exercise, time with family and friends, and opportunities to step away from their studies. At the same time, much can be achieved through a realistic study plan, focused revision, completion of practice examinations and careful attention to teacher feedback. I encourage every Year 12 student to make the most of this opportunity so that they return confident, organised and ready to finish strongly.

Celebrating Student Achievement

I am delighted to acknowledge and congratulate Year 11 student Kailani Jones, who was named a joint winner of the Cultural Awareness Award at the 2026 Geelong Youth Awards.

Kailani was recognised for her leadership in celebrating and promoting First Nations culture within her school community. Her contribution to NAIDOC Week activities and cultural education initiatives has helped to strengthen understanding, connection and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. This is an outstanding achievement and wonderful recognition of Kailani's leadership and positive contribution to our College and the wider community.

Finally, I wish all students, staff and families a safe and enjoyable term break. I hope everyone has the opportunity to rest, spend time with family and friends, and return refreshed and ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of Term 4.

Principal Wayne Johnnesen





Important Dates



September	
Friday 18th	Last Day of Term -2:30pm finish
October	
Monday 5th	Term 4 Commences
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	
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

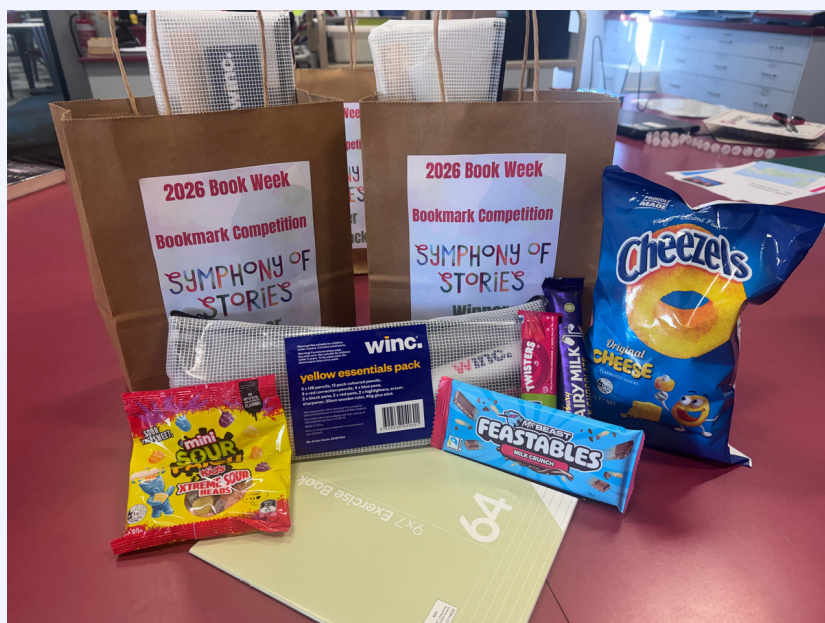
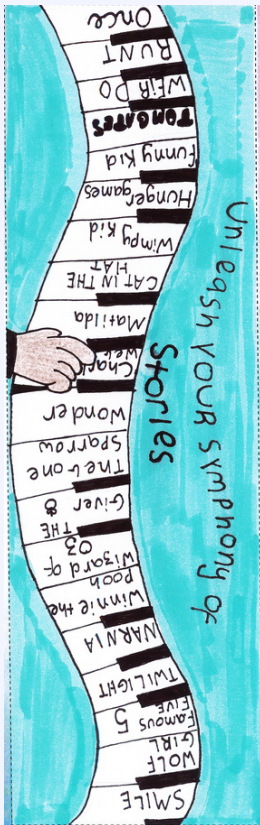
House Leaders are generally the first point of contact for parents and carers seeking support. Early communication allows us to work together to support student wellbeing, engagement and learning.

	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

Library News

We celebrated Book Week 2026

Symphony of Stories with a bookmark competition. Students across both campuses submitted entries and were asked to align their design with the theme. It was a very tough decision to select 3 winners as we had so many beautiful and creative entries. We'd like to acknowledge everyone that entered and their effort, we hope you'll enter again next year. This year we congratulate Alice Hinkley 10E, Isabella Robson 9H, and Victoria Cuzner 7S as our winners! All three received a prize pack and had their bookmark professionally printed as our official BSC Library bookmarks. Come and get yours now!



Basketball Program

BELLARINE SECONDARY COLLEGE **BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

APPLICATIONS OPEN
YEAR 7, 2027

USE THE QR CODE
TO APPLY



Contact: steven.carlson@education.vic.gov.au

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		

Future U is a free, welcoming and interactive event where you can explore employment, training, social connection opportunities and support services, all in one place.

- ✓ Explore employment and training pathways
 - ✓ Learn about disability and wellbeing supports
 - ✓ Discover social connection and community participation programs
 - ✓ Enjoy gaming, activities and hands-on experiences
 - ✓ Chat one-on-one with genU staff
- Plus more!

 Wednesday 30 September 2026

 10:00am - 4:00pm

 Eastern Hub, 285a McKillop Street, East Geelong

 Free parking available

 Free event | Registration essential

 Register now: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1633656>

 Register now for your chance to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card.



FUTURE 

A genU Youth Open Day

For 15-24 year olds!

FREE all-abilities youth open day
10am-4pm Wednesday 30 September 2026
Eastern Hub Geelong

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.

Webinars for parents and carers | eSafety Commissioner

Webinars for parents and carers | eSafety Commissioner

Registration -

AI-generated images and videos: navigating the deepfake threat

Tools using AI are evolving fast and young people are often the first to explore and adopt them. But with this rapid change comes real risks. AI tools that generate fake images and videos are now being misused in ways that can harm or exploit children and young people.

This webinar for parents and carers will cover:

- how these new technologies are being used and why it matters
- how these new technologies are impacting children and young people
- steps you can take to increase awareness and support your child as well as how to report online abuse using deepfake images and videos.

It's suitable for parents and carers of children, including teens, in upper primary and secondary school.

Kindest regards

Mel White

Adolescent Health Promotion Nurse Barwon Area



Geelong/Surf Coast Indigenous Surfing Program

It's that time of year again starting to get warmer hopefully meaning we'll score some nice afternoons!

This year we will be running our fortnightly afternoon surf sessions from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Wednesdays on the following days:

21st October

4th November

18th November

2nd December

Location: Bancoora Beach - Breamlea (meet in the carpark)

Aim to arrive around 4:30 PM and we will sort everyone out with wetsuits and aim to be in the water at 5:00 PM

Everything to go surfing is supplied! As well as a arvo feed supplied by Feed Me Surf Coast!

All ages are encouraged to get involved, Elders and parents welcome!

You can register by using QR code in the flyer below

Or follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bancoora2026>

Feel free to invite any other mob along!

Looking forward to some nice afternoons at the beach!

**VICTORIAN
INDIGENOUS
SURFING PROGRAM**

2026 GEELONG/SURFCOST

ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
COMMUNITY

INDIGENOUS SURFING PROGRAM

What: Learn to be safe in the ocean while having fun. You'll get to surfing, Learn about the ocean and have a feed after! Open to all ages! Elder's encouraged to get involved!

Food Supplied by Feed Me Surfcoast

Where: Bancoora Beach - Breamlea

When: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Wednesday 21st October
Wednesday 4th November
Wednesday 18th November
Wednesday 2nd December

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bancoora2026>

All equipment provided please bring bathers and towel
Scan the QR code to sign up or contact
joe@surfingvic.com - 0490 441 820

Advertisements

SES BELLARINE UNIT TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

WHEN: SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

WHERE: CLIFTON SPRINGS BOWLS CLUB

TIME: DOORS OPEN 7:10 - START 7:30pm till 9.30pm

COST: \$20 @ TICKET

BYO: NIBBLES/SNACKS TO SHARE

DRINKS: AT BAR PRICES

BRING CASH: FOR RAFFLES AND COINS TO PLAY SOME FUN GAMES BETWEEN SETS

ORGANISE: YOUR FRIENDS AND GET A TABLE TOGETHER 8-10

NOMINATE: YOUR TABLE CAPTAIN & TEAM NAME

BOOKING INFO: Captains can you please collect ticket monies from your team members & make one bulk payment to book your table in to the event.

TO BOOK: Pay by direct debit or QR code. TEXT: 0447 118 134 for Bank details or QR Code. Ticket confirmations will be sent via text.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR SES BELLARINE UNIT – SO THAT OUR VOLUNTEERS CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

Thank you to all the local businesses who have donated prizes for raffles on the night. Your support means a lot.



Safer Communities - Together



PSYCHOLOGY & POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

WHY CHOOSE US ?

Ark Allied Care is a Melbourne based company of experienced and passionate professionals who use a strengths based approach to build skills, confidence and resilience in a fun, child focused manner,

Our school-based services mean...

- less missed class time
- greater convenience for you
- more collaboration with educators

COSTS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Services are charged at \$252.99/hour and can be provided to full fee paying clients, as well as those with an eligible NDIS or Mental Health Plan. Speak to our friendly staff for more information,



WE CAN HELP WITH...

Social skills
Anxiety
Organisational skills
Processing trauma
Emotional regulation
Assessments
Challenging behaviours
Self esteem & confidence
School concerns
Parental support

...and much more

0417 333 972
info@arkalliedcare.com.au

www.arkalliedcare.com.au

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

Saints HOCKEY CLUB

HOOK In 2 HOCKEY

**Come and try 6 weeks program
For ages 6-16**

Day: Wednesday 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Dates: Sept 16 - Oct 21
Location: The Geelong Hockey Centre,
Stead Park, Corio

Enquiries: Greg Burns 0412 717 647
juniors@saintshockeyclub.com.au

Use the QR below for more info and to register your participant
child. Note the first session is FREE!







THE GEELONG SPARTAN SHIELD

OFFSIDE TAG




Discount Code: RYDER10

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

BELMONT COMMON (OVAL 3), GEELONG

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Proudly supported by






2026 GEELONG NETBALL CLINIC

JOIN EX-AUSTRALIAN DIAMOND & MELBOURNE VIXENS STAR TEGAN PHILIP FOR A NETBALL CLINIC THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

Clinic Details

WHEN

- Monday 28 September

WHERE

- Beyond Bank Stadium, Belmont

WHO

- 9-14 Year Olds
- 9:00am - 12:00pm

COST

- \$99 per person



Vixen style skills & drills, Keynote Speaking, Q&A, Photos, Signing, Prizes!

REGISTER NOW! - LIMITED SPOTS!

Gimme 5! for healthy communities Bellarine

Join us for a community ride or walk along the Portarlington foreshore

BICYCLE NETWORK
We've got your back

PRIDE WALK
with BELLARINE

BBUG
BELLARINE BICYCLE USERS GROUP



When: Friday 25 Sept, 11am-1pm
Where: Portarlington Pier
Cost: free ~ byo picnic
Book: scan code or go to <https://bit.ly/3VeCTa6>




5% FOR SAFER STREETS