

— ISSUE 8 | Monday 24th of August 2026 —

NEWSLETTER

Respect | Resilience | Responsibility



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24 Hour Absence Line

5251 9010



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Principal Report

by Wayne Johannesen

As Term 3 enters its final month, our campuses continue to reflect the calm, purposeful and aspirational learning environment we value at Bellarine Secondary College. Across classrooms, practical settings and specialist programs, students are being challenged to think deeply, build confidence and take increasing responsibility for their learning.

The breadth of learning available beyond the classroom has again been a feature of the term. Students have represented the College through interschool sport, excursions, camps, performances, wellbeing activities, peer mentoring, applied learning and community-based programs. These experiences enrich the curriculum, strengthen relationships and allow students to discover interests and capabilities that may not always be visible in a traditional classroom setting.

I thank our staff for the considerable planning and commitment that make these opportunities possible, and I encourage every student to make the most of the experiences available to them.

For students completing Unit 4 VCE studies, the coming weeks represent an important transition from completing coursework to consolidating learning and preparing purposefully for the written examinations. Effective preparation at this stage is not simply about studying for longer; it is about having a clear plan, revisiting the essential knowledge and skills from Units 3 and 4, seeking feedback and using practice examinations to identify the areas that require further attention.

The September school holiday period offers students an opportunity to establish momentum in their revision while also making time to rest and recharge before the final weeks of classes, the study period and examinations. A balanced and disciplined approach will place students in the strongest position to demonstrate what they know and can do.

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Principal Report Continued

Our VCE Vocational Major students are also working towards the successful completion of their certificates by finalising the classroom and practical evidence required to demonstrate achievement of their learning outcomes. This is a demanding period across all senior pathways, and consistent attendance, organisation and communication with teachers remain essential.

Families who would like advice about supporting a senior student are encouraged to contact the relevant House Leader and to make the most of the upcoming Three-Way Conferences. These conversations provide an important opportunity to discuss progress, clarify priorities and identify the next steps that will support a strong conclusion to the year.

*Our next **Three-Way Conferences** will be held on **Thursday 3 September**. The upcoming release of Student Learning Behaviour Reports will provide an important foundation for these discussions, giving students, families and teachers a shared point of reference from which to reflect on learning habits, engagement and progress. I strongly encourage students, parents and carers to make the most of this opportunity to meet with teachers and agree on the actions that will support continued academic growth. These conversations are most valuable when students participate actively, consider the feedback provided and leave with a clear understanding of their strengths, priorities and next steps.*

The conferences are particularly timely for our Year 12 students, who are nearing the completion of Unit 4 and preparing for the end-of-year written examinations. Meeting with teachers at this point provides an important opportunity to clarify outstanding requirements, seek targeted feedback, identify areas requiring further consolidation and develop a focused approach to revision. A purposeful conversation now can help students use the remaining weeks effectively and approach the examination period with greater confidence and direction.

The strongest outcomes occur when students, families and teachers share a clear understanding of progress, learning habits and the next steps required for improvement. Our partnership with families also extends beyond scheduled conferences. If you have concerns, require clarification or would like to discuss how your child can be supported, please contact the relevant classroom teacher or House Leader.

Planning for the 2027 school year is now well underway following the recent information sessions and course counselling process. Students in Years 8 to 11 have been supported to consider their interests, strengths and future aspirations before making program and subject selections.

Student preferences play an important role in shaping the learning program offered across Years 10 to 12. Staff are now carefully analysing those preferences alongside staffing, pathway and curriculum considerations to develop a program that provides the widest possible range of viable opportunities for students.

I thank our parents and carers for engaging so actively in the subject selection process across Years 8 to 11. Their involvement, together with the thoughtful participation of students, has been invaluable as we plan individual programs and shape the College's broader learning program for 2027.

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Principal Report Continued

I also acknowledge the leadership of Mr McDonald, Mr Dougherty, Mr Ryan, Mr Grimshaw and Ms Wedding, together with their respective teams. Their commitment to meeting with students, providing informed guidance and supporting families throughout the process has helped students make considered choices aligned with their interests, strengths and future pathways.

Further information will be provided as the 2027 program is finalised.

The College production of High School Musical, presented on 17 and 18 August, was an outstanding success and a wonderful celebration of the talent, confidence and creativity of our students. The quality and energy of the performances reflected the students' considerable preparation, courage and commitment, both on stage and behind the scenes. I warmly congratulate every student involved for the enthusiasm, teamwork and professionalism they brought to the production.

Such an achievement is only possible through an extraordinary investment of time and care from staff. I particularly acknowledge Cass Webster, Bek Cowled and Olivia Jobe for their leadership, encouragement and unwavering support throughout the past eight to ten months of rehearsals and preparation. Their enormous commitment enabled students to develop their skills, build confidence and create a production of which the entire College community can be immensely proud. I also thank all staff, families and community members who contributed to and supported this memorable event.

The final weeks of the term will remain busy, but they also provide an opportunity for every student to consolidate progress and finish strongly. Whether preparing for examinations, completing applied learning outcomes, selecting a future pathway or participating in one of the College's many programs, success begins with attendance, organisation, purposeful effort and a willingness to seek support.

Thank you to our students, staff and families for their continuing contribution to the life of our college and to the positive learning culture evident across both campuses.

Every Day Counts

It is a Department of Education and Training (DET) requirement that Parents/Guardians contact the school with an explanation for all student absences, prior to, or on the day of absence.

If Parent/Guardian approval has not been received, Bellarine Secondary College will use Compass Absence Email Alerts and SMS to communicate this information to families. Parents/Guardians are then required to contact the College to approve the absence as soon as possible. If absences remain unexplained, you will receive a phone call from the school to confirm your child's absence.





Important Dates



August	
Friday 28th	Where it purple day -Just a splash of colour to your uniform
September	
Thursday 3rd	3 Way Conferences – Parent Teacher Interviews – Student Free Day
Monday 7 - 9th	Year 11 VET Music Recording Camp – Melbourne
Thursday 10th	MUFTI DAY -RU Okay Day
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
Wednesday 9-10th	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

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

Alpine Camp 2026



Bellarine Secondary College Shines in High School Musical Jr.

The production was performed across three sold-out shows at the Bellarine Arts Centre, with audiences treated to an energetic and entertaining performance filled with singing, dancing, acting and plenty of school spirit.

From the first rehearsal to the final curtain, our students demonstrated an outstanding level of teamwork, dedication and talent. Students worked together both on and off stage, supporting one another and embracing the many challenges that come with putting on a major school production.

The success of the show was a wonderful reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of our cast, crew and production team. Whether performing under the lights, working backstage, assisting with sets, or supporting the technical elements of the show, every student played an important role in bringing High School Musical Jr. to life.

A huge congratulations to all of our students for their hard work, creativity and commitment. We are incredibly proud of the way they came together as a team and delivered three fantastic performances to sold-out audiences.

Thank you also to our dedicated staff, families and wider school community for their encouragement and support throughout the production. It truly was a celebration of the talent and spirit of Bellarine Secondary College!





Charles Anderson -Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize Award



Celebrating Charles Anderson's Achievement 🏆

Bellarine Secondary College is incredibly excited and proud to celebrate the outstanding success of Charles Anderson, who has received the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize Award.

The award was presented by the Veterans Branch of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing at Parliament House, recognising Charles's achievement and his commitment to honouring the spirit of ANZAC.

A wonderful achievement, Charles – we are incredibly proud of you!

A special thank you to Alison Marchant, Member for Bellarine, for supporting and celebrating this wonderful occasion.

Taylan Black ANZAC Day Flag Project

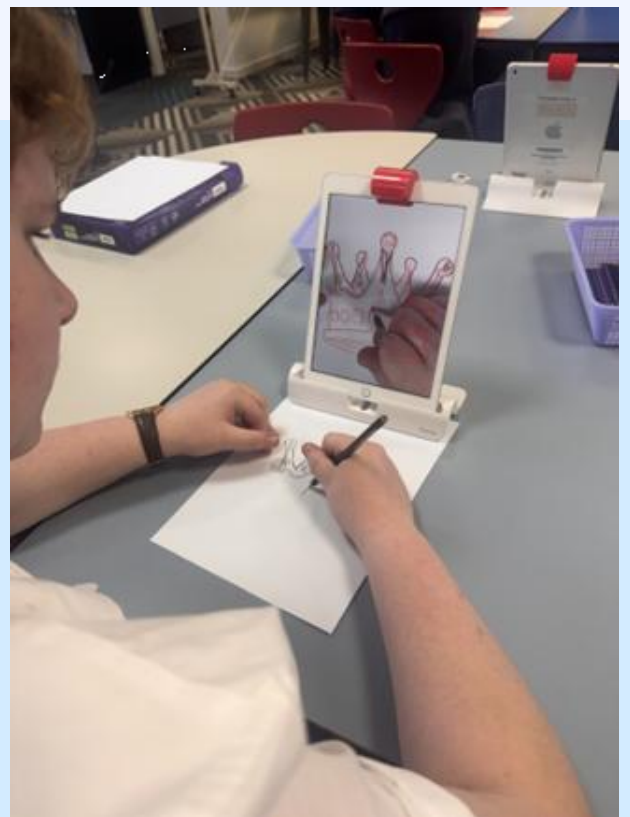


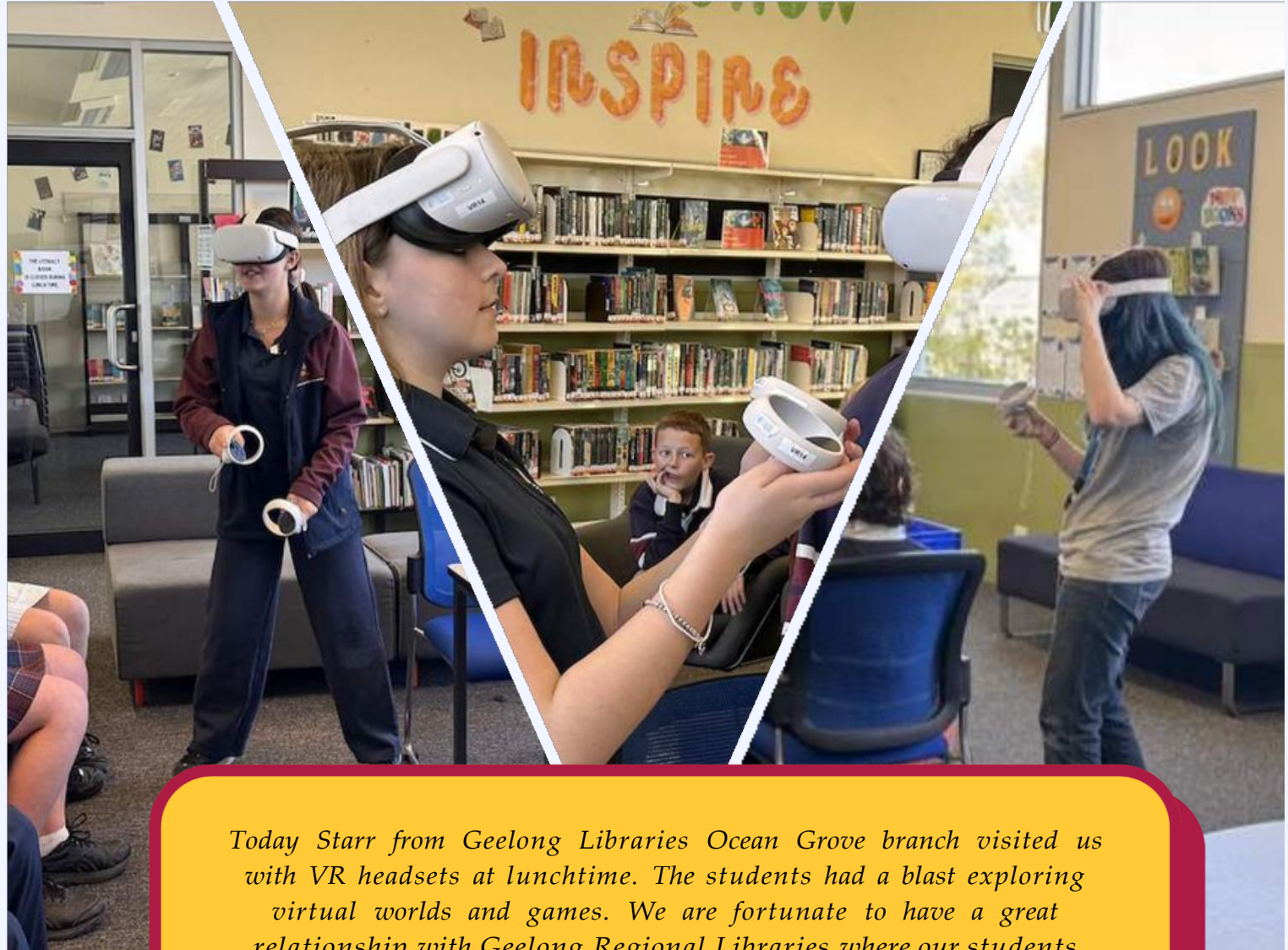
Taylan Black a College Captain and Cadet Sergeant in the 32 Australian Army Cadet Unit has led a special community project to ensure that every veteran buried at Drysdale Cemetery is recognised and honoured in the lead-up to ANZAC Day. Taylan and his supporters have identified 109 veterans and, where possible, researched their service history, including their rank, service number and last known posting. As part of the tribute, approximately 104 Australian flags were placed at veterans' graves. This has been a wonderful community effort. With the support of his family, Bellarine Secondary College and the local community, Taylan has coordinated permissions, funding, research and preparation for the project. To acknowledge his efforts Taylan was invited to the Drysdale RSL's recent meeting and was presented with an award of appreciation for his work on the ANZAC Day flag project.

Library News



"Grace from the Drysdale branch of Geelong Regional Libraries visited the Drysdale Campus Library with OSMO Masterpiece. Our students spent lunchtime fusing technology and art to create some of their own masterpieces!"





Today Starr from Geelong Libraries Ocean Grove branch visited us with VR headsets at lunchtime. The students had a blast exploring virtual worlds and games. We are fortunate to have a great relationship with Geelong Regional Libraries where our students are able to access different technologies so easily.



Book Week Bookmark Competition

2026 Book Week Bookmark Competition



This year's theme is

**SYMPHONY OF
STORIES**

so get creative and
design a bookmark
that represents
this idea.



Remember to keep
your design within
the marked area.

**DESIGN A
BOOKMARK
AND WIN!**



Winners will
receive a prize
pack and have their
bookmark design
professionally
printed to become
our new Library
bookmarks.

**Return your design
to the Library by
Friday 28 August.**

Name: _____ Year: _____

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

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		

Farm My School

By James McLennan

Chief Executive Officer | Co-Founder

james@farmmyschool.com.au www.farmmyschool.com

Thank you to all those who have been buying the this year.

We will be offering small and large boxes available for single purchase as you need, as well as a 10-week and 5-week subscriptions to keep you topped up on a weekly basis.

Prices are as follows:

Small Box | \$35 (inclusive of discount)

Large Box | \$50 (inclusive of discount)

Small Box 10-week Subscription | \$315 (inclusive of discount)

Small Box 5-week Subscription I \$205 (inclusive of discount)

Large Box 10-week Subscription | \$450 (inclusive of discount)

Large Box 5-week Subscription I \$315 (inclusive of discount)

Boxes will be available for pick up only from:

LardAss Butter on Wednesdays between 9am-4pm

Farm My School Shed at Bellarine S.C, Drysdale on Wednesdays between 8am-4pm

Bellarine Farmgate, Drysdale on Saturdays from 11am-2pm

Be sure to select your preferred pick-up location at checkout!

We have discount codes available for Bellarine Secondary College staff and families available for you to use, so make sure you don't forget to apply these at checkout! We kindly ask that you please keep these codes within the BSC community.

Discount codes below:

SMALLBOX - \$10 off small box

LARGEBOX - \$20 off large box

SMALLFIVE - \$40 off small five-week sub

LARGEFIVE- \$90 off large five-week sub

SMALLTEN - \$90 off small ten-week sub

LARGETEN - \$180 large ten-week sub

We thank you for your support and we look forward to providing you with an abundance of delicious, fresh, locally grown produce. Head to our [shop](#) on the Farm My School [website](#) for more information. Should you have any queries about veggie boxes please email hello@farmmyschool.com.

Farm My School



FARM MY SCHOOL VEGGIE BOX

PICK UP AND
BELLARINE
DELIVERY
AVAILABLE

ORGANICALLY GROWN
FRESHLY HARVESTED
SEASONAL PRODUCE

BELLARINE
COLAC

ORDER
HERE

FARM MY SCHOOL

Growing Our Future

The township's school garden is doing its part to help students learn to grow their own food. It's a great way to stay healthy and stay in school. - Christine





OUTBAC Festival 🎵🎸

Support some of the region's most exciting emerging musical talent!

Get along to the OUTBAC Festival and support some fantastic young musicians from Bellarine Secondary College!

🎸 Caught In The Crossfire

Featuring our students Angus Kaos, Andrew Thompson and Brendan Wytkamp

🎸 Vapour

Featuring Mayia Hitchcock, Roxy Cronwright, Jordan Cronwright and Roxy Mujati

Six of the greatest young bands from Geelong, the Bellarine and the Surf Coast will be performing out the back of the Bellarine Arts Centre.

Bring a blanket, bring your friends and family, and be ready to dance! 🕺🕴

🍷 Food and soft drinks will be available from A Taste Of Tolga, or feel free to bring along a picnic.

This is an all-ages, family-friendly event in a safe, alcohol-free, drug-free, smoke-free and vape-free environment.

🎫 Tickets are available through the Bellarine Arts Centre website or via the event link.

Come along, support our students and celebrate the incredible emerging musical talent in our region! ☆🎵🎸

Good luck to Caught In The Crossfire and Vapour — we'll be cheering you on! ❤️🎸

Advertisements



JUNIOR CRICKETERS WANTED

Ocean Grove Cricket Club

Registered junior players (U11-U15) receive a \$100 sports voucher to help cover the cost of gear!

Friday & Saturday Cricket

- Boys & girls welcome
- All skill levels welcome

Age Groups

- Under 11s
- Under 13s
- Under 15s
- Woolworths Blasters (ages 5-10)



Questions?

Adam Arnold Junior Coordinator
0420 846 066
ogccgrubbers@gmail.com



Register your interest

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://oceangrovecricket.com.au/register-interest/>



Festival of Hockey

**Free
Come
and Try
Session!**

24th & 25th October

For a Family Fun Day
Junior from 6 - 14 years old.
Seniors 16 yrs + & Parents welcome.

Geelong Hockey Centre
Stead Park

summer Hockey

1/2 Field Games
Junior & Senior
Competitions

Mid week fun!
Oct to Feb
family teams on
fridays!

Scan QR code
and complete
form to receive
updates about
upcoming events

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram






Wallington Cricket Club

Seeking
26/27 Season players
Juniors



Woolworths Cricket Blast program

Under 11s

Junior Girls

Under 12s Under 15s

Junior Boys

Under 13s Under 15s Under 17s

Training

U11s: Monday 5pm-6pm
U13 Boys: Monday 6pm-7pm
U15/U17 Boys: Wednesday 5:30pm-6:30pm

U12 Girls: TBC
U15 Girls: TBC

Wallington Recreation Reserve

Everyone is welcome No experience necessary

wallingtonclub@gmail.com
www.wallingtoncc.com.au