



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 2
WEEK 10
2026

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Settling into school life

Principal News

Dear Community,

As we reach the end of Term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for another wonderful term at Botanic Ridge Primary School. It has been a busy semester filled with learning, growth, community involvement and student leadership. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to the exciting opportunities that await us in Semester 2.

I hope all families enjoy a well-deserved break and have the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time together.



Mrs Fuller

Students Helping to Keep Our School Safe: I would like to give a special thank you to Ariana (Year 5) and Harley (Year 4), who spent time helping clean up the large amount of leaves around the school prior to the market. Their efforts helped make our grounds safer and more welcoming for visitors. Several of our Year 2 students also volunteered their time to assist with the clean-up. It is wonderful to see students taking pride in their school and demonstrating our values through their actions. Thank you all for your hard work.



Staff News: We are excited to welcome three new Education Support staff members to our school community next term:

- Natalie Ferriggi
- Bailey Robinson
- Mill Kariotis



We are looking forward to having them join the BRPS team and know they will make valuable contributions to supporting our students. We would also like to warmly welcome back Jess Spinucci from maternity leave. Ms Spinucci will be returning to work from Wednesday to Friday each week from the beginning of next term. We are thrilled to have her back.

Grants and Fundraising Sub-Committee: Last week our Grants and Fundraising Sub-Committee met for the first time, and it was fantastic to see such a strong turnout from interested community members. During the meeting, we toured the school grounds and facilities to identify priorities and opportunities for future improvement projects. There was great discussion about how we can continue to enhance our learning environments for students. I also recently met with Bunnings and we are hopeful they may be able to support us with upgrades to some of our garden beds. On that note, if anyone has access to, or knows where we may be able to source, garden edging hoops, please get in touch with the school. We would love to hear from you.

Care Squad Update: Our Care Squad continues to make a positive impact around the school. Last week members helped clean up and organise the rocks around the grounds, and there is still plenty more work to do. If any families would like to lend a hand before or after school, or even on weekends, we would welcome the support. This week the Care Squad is focusing on cleaning up rubbish around the school before the holiday break to ensure our grounds are looking their best. We are also excited to announce that we now have 30 students participating in the Care Squad. Their commitment to caring for our environment and school grounds is inspiring. A huge thank you to Stirling Real Estate for sponsoring the Care Squad's new purple vests. The students will look fantastic, and the vests help promote visibility and pride in the important work they do. I'll be sure to include a photo in the first newsletter next term.



NAIDOC Week Celebration: On Wednesday, students participated in our NAIDOC Week incursion. It was wonderful to see such strong engagement from students and staff as we came together to celebrate and learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and achievements. The incursion provided valuable learning opportunities and was a fitting way to recognise the significance of NAIDOC Week.



NAPLAN Writing Results: We have recently received preliminary NAPLAN writing results, and I am delighted to share that our Year 3 and Year 5 students have performed above the Victorian state average in writing. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers and the support provided by families. We are incredibly proud of these results and look forward to continuing to strengthen writing outcomes across the school.

SRC Update: Our Student Representative Council has been hard at work leading a range of exciting initiatives across the school. The Popcorn Group is almost ready to begin selling popcorn next term, so keep an eye out for further information. The SRC has also been surveying students across every class to gather feedback about the rules and expectations for each play area around the school. This important student voice work will help shape future playground expectations and ensure all students have an opportunity to contribute.

We are also excited to share that the Outdoor Library project is gathering momentum. The Cranbourne Casey Men's Shed has kindly agreed to help bring our vision to life, and we look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses. Finally, our Sandpit Toy Group is planning a whole-school free dress day to raise funds for additional sandpit resources. More details will be shared next term—watch this space!



People's Choice Award

Botanic Ridge Primary School is in the running to win \$2000 from Bank First. These funds will be used to purchase new take home reader books for our children. To win, we need you to vote using the below link:

https://www.bankfirst.com.au/teaching-initiatives-program?mkt_tok=NzgyLVBaWS0yNzAAAAGidzbhDVTRsh_-eKw5N8sFO5YfVqCgPXuxb3aFY8AFCnb-AH6Kg5o5uOE-bNFnQ4FoehF2_24v5P_tBz-xBJVnyyWgFWiUaA-RkNka1DrInQ



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Farewell from Ms Comben

Dear Botanic Ridge Primary School Community,



It is with a heart full of gratitude and many beautiful emotions that I share some very special news. I have been successful in gaining a permanent position as Head of Primary at Narre Warren South P-12 College. While I am incredibly excited for this next chapter, leaving Botanic Ridge Primary School is certainly bittersweet. Working at Botanic Ridge Primary School has been one of the absolute highlights of my career. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of the very beginning of this wonderful school alongside Ms Vandembosch and Mr Cuss. Opening a new school is a very special experience, and I will always treasure the memories of those early days.

Building relationships, establishing our culture, and creating a strong school community from the ground up was an incredibly rewarding journey that I feel privileged to have been part of.

One of the greatest privileges of my time here has been establishing and developing the development of the curriculum, assessment, and reporting practices that have shaped our school. Watching Botanic Ridge grow from an idea into the incredible learning community it is today has been a truly rewarding experience. I am so proud of what we have achieved together and the strong foundations that have been established for future generations of students.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank every member of the Botanic Ridge community for your kindness, support, and encouragement throughout my time at the school. From the moment we opened, I had a feeling that this was a very special place and that feeling has only grown stronger over the years. Botanic Ridge Primary School has an enormous heart, and the strength of this community is something truly special.

I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside the most dedicated, passionate, and supportive staff who come to school every day committed to ensuring every child feels valued, supported, and able to thrive both academically and socially. The care, commitment, and love our staff show for students is inspiring, and it has been a privilege to be part of such an amazing team. Teaching at Botanic Ridge Primary School has always been about so much more than a job. It has been about relationships, belonging, and creating opportunities for children to grow into confident and capable young people. It has been an absolute privilege to work with your beautiful children each day, to watch them learn, embrace our school values, and develop into the wonderful individuals they are.

I am deeply grateful for the many connections I have made throughout my time here and for the warmth, trust, and support that has been extended to me by students, families, staff, and the wider community. These relationships and memories will stay with me long after I leave. Although I am excited about this next chapter, I know I will leave Botanic Ridge Primary School with many mixed emotions. I know this school is in incredible hands and will continue to grow, flourish, and achieve wonderful things. I will always feel a strong connection to this special community and will proudly continue to watch Botanic Ridge Primary School from afar.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your school's story. It has been an absolute privilege and a genuine honour to be part of the Botanic Ridge Primary School community.

With heartfelt thanks,
Megan Comben

Please join us for assembly on Wednesday 15th July to farewell and acknowledge Ms Comben.

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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Why Handwriting Still Matters



Mr Bloomfield

In today's digital world, it can be easy to wonder whether handwriting is still important. Research shows that handwriting remains a critical skill for young learners and plays an important role in reading, spelling and writing development.

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, handwriting is explicitly taught across the school. Teachers model correct letter formation and provide students with regular opportunities to practise until their handwriting becomes accurate, fluent and automatic.

When students have to concentrate on forming each letter, much of their thinking is taken up by the physical act of writing. As handwriting becomes automatic, students can focus more on generating ideas, selecting vocabulary and constructing sentences. In other words, fluent handwriting helps students become better writers.

Research also highlights the importance of learning correct letter formation from the beginning. Each time a student forms a letter correctly, they strengthen the neural pathways associated with that movement. If an incorrect formation becomes a habit, it can take significantly more practice to retrain and establish a new pattern. This is why teachers place such a strong emphasis on modelling, feedback and regular practice.

Like any skill, handwriting improves with repetition. Encouraging children to write at home through shopping lists, cards, notes, journals or drawing and labelling pictures can provide valuable opportunities to strengthen their skills. By developing clear, fluent handwriting, students are building an important foundation for success in writing and learning.

Creative Writing Prompts

Choose a picture below and write a narrative. Be sure to include lots of description for your reader to enjoy :)

Don't forget to include: Character, Setting, Problem, Feeling, Attempt, Consequence and End feeling.

If creative writing isn't your thing, write an information report. Happy Writing!



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Wellbeing Buzz

Supporting Wellbeing Over the Holidays



As we head into the upcoming holiday break, it's a wonderful opportunity for students to rest, reset, and recharge. The pace of the school term can be busy, and these breaks play an important role in helping children return to school feeling settled, refreshed, and ready for learning.

During this time, families can support wellbeing at home through simple, intentional routines that make a big difference.

Ways to Support Wellbeing at Home

Keep a gentle routine

Children thrive on predictability. Keeping consistent wake-up times, mealtimes, and bedtime routines helps them feel secure and balanced.

Encourage outdoor play

Fresh air, movement, and unstructured play support physical and emotional wellbeing. Even short bursts of outdoor time can lift mood and energy.

Create moments of connection

Board games, shared cooking, reading together, or simply chatting about the day help strengthen relationships and build a sense of belonging.

Support quiet time

Holidays can be exciting, but they can also be overwhelming. Calm activities like drawing, listening to music, or mindfulness exercises help children regulate and unwind.

Limit screen time where possible

Screens can be fun, but balance is key. Encouraging a mix of creative, active, and restful activities helps children stay engaged in healthy ways.



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Code Camp

We are pleased to offer Code Camp to our students again in Term 3!

Little Coders After-School on Tuesdays

Grades 0 to 2

Your child will love learning to code with Little Coders, a fun and interactive program designed especially for young minds.

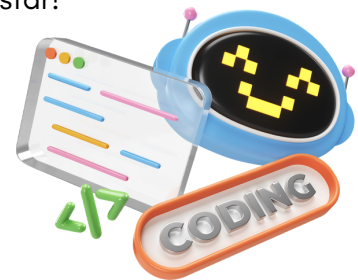
Through play-based learning and hands-on activities, kids dive into the exciting world of coding - without even realizing they're learning! Using Code Camp's kid-friendly platform, **Code Camp World**, students explore the basics of coding through drag & drop programming - learning how to **think logically, create simple algorithms, use if statements, and solve problems creatively**.

It's the perfect first step on their journey to becoming a coding superstar!

SECURE YOUR SPOT: <https://my.codecamp.com.au/course/6801>

There are limited spots for this class. Register today!

Starting Tue, 21 Jul 2026



Code Camp After-School Coding on Wednesdays

Grades 3 to 6

In this exciting program, After-School Coding students tackle a brand-new coding project each week - building games, solving challenges, and learning real coding concepts in a fun, hands-on way.

Through Code Camp World, the online learning platform, kids explore essential programming skills like **functions, variables, branching, and game logic**, while also diving into the worlds of **user experience, animation**, and even **maths and physics**. Each student gets their own Code Camp World account to keep the creativity going at home, sharing projects with friends and family or dreaming up their next big game!

SECURE YOUR SPOT: <https://my.codecamp.com.au/course/6800>

There are limited spots for this class. Register today!

Starting Wed, 22 Jul 2026

Please contact Code Camp directly on 1300 263 322 or hello@codecamp.com.au for any other info.



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Voluntary Contributions Reminder



Thank you to all our families who have made parent voluntary contributions to our school this year for your support and generosity!

Your contributions have ensured that all the children have pens, pencils, workbooks, whiteboards and markers and other necessary classroom resources for their learning. They have also put paint and materials in their hands during art and STEM.

We would love to add to our maths resources, take home readers and PE equipment! You can help us with this!

If you have yet to make a contribution and would like to do so, we would welcome your payment to put towards these school resources.

Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and make a huge difference to the quality of programs, facilities and resources we can continue to provide to your children.

You are able to make a payment of any amount at any time through the Compass Payments Centre, or you are welcome to come into the office to pay via EFT or cash.

Thank you for your continued support!



Little Birdie Market



A big thank you to everyone who supported our BBQ at The Little Birdie Market on Saturday. Whether you volunteered your time, donated supplies or stopped by to grab a bacon and egg sandwich, sausage or sweet treat your support is greatly appreciated. All money raised is going towards purchasing laminators and document projectors for our classrooms.

A huge shout out to these businesses for their donations:

Sth Gippsland Eggs for generously donating eggs.

The Frozen Grocer for supplying an endless supply of onions.

Bakers Delight Cranbourne for their ongoing support by donating bread.

Baked in Botanic Ridge for kindly donating her delicious sweet treats for our school to sell!

How You Can Help Next Time:

We welcome donations all year-round for future BBQ stalls, raffles, and community events.

We are also looking for helpers for:

Breakfast club Friday mornings from 8am

Next market - dates TBC

Thank you once again for your support throughout Term 2. I wish all of our families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday break, and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for an exciting Semester 2.

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Photos



Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

- 0A** Evelyn, Kody
- 0C** Ceyda, Clinton
- 0D** Georgie
- 1C** Ben
- 2A** Mohammad
- 2B** Levi, Harper
- 2C** Jasraaj, Eythan
- 2D** Poppi
- 3A** Mya, Jobe, Leah
- 3B** Nirvana
- 3C** Noah
- 34A** Sonny R.
- 4C** Toby
- 5A** Haris
- 56A** James
- 6A** Scarlett
- STEM** Raff P.
- Music** Emerson C.
- LOTE** Jarryd C., Sofia T.
- Art** Judd F.
- PE** Toby M., Charlie Butterworth

Upcoming Dates & Reminders



- Learning Focus Forums and Curriculum Day - July 13th
- First Day of Term 3 - July 14th
- State Cross Country - July 16th (select students only)
- Year 3 Camp Info session - July 23rd
- Term 4 Curriculum Day - December 9th



Bringing fun after-school classes to your school



Little Coders • Coding • Curious Minds • Robotics
Animation • Design • Minecraft Engineers

What's on this term?

Code Camp After-School Coding, Years 3 - 6, Wednesdays 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Little Coders After-School, Years 0 - 2, Tuesdays 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Book now at:

www.codecamp.com.au/botrid

Get in touch at hello@codecamp.com.au

Rated **4.7** on **PRODUCT REVIEW** with over 1,110 ★★★★★ reviews



The grass stains you get playing as a kid stay with you your whole life. So for fun, friendship, and getting your hands dirty, it's gotta be NAB AFL Auskick.

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

DEVON MEADOWS & SURROUNDS

TERM 3 AFL PROGRAM

STARTS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH

3:15PM - 4:15PM

Running out of Booring Reserve



STAY UP
HERE



Help our idea take flight

Bank First's Teaching Initiatives Program helps to bring innovative school initiatives to life, and we're in the running for the People's Choice Award!

Head to bankfirst.com.au/TIP to vote for us – it takes just a few seconds.



Vote for us

Victoria Teachers' United ABN 44 087 651 769, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence Number 240 960.

CAMP FOR BUILDING SELF ESTEEM & CONFIDENCE FOR KIDS!



HELPING KIDS BUILD SELF-ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE IN THE OCTOBER 2026 CAMP!

KIDS OF GOLD, 323 MONBULK RD SILVAN VIC 3795 – ABN 57 327 231 83

Fri 23rd – Sun 25th Oct 2026

\$85 Full Fee *

www.kidsofgold.org.au

Open to Primary kids in grades 4-6 in 2026 (and 9 year olds in grade 3) including those who have entered Year 7 in 2026. This is a Level 1 camp, run primarily for those who have not been to Kids of Gold before.

Activities are fun: from low ropes, initiative activities, wall climbing, games, drama and challenging interactive sessions.

Starting in Feb 2003, this camp has continued for one reason—because it works! It builds kids to be much more confident and increases their self esteem.

Google kids of gold to see who we are, what we do and to apply online or download a form for the May 2026 camp. The form and website have more on how the camp started and where it is situated in the beautiful Yarra Valley.



KIDS OF GOLD

Held at Lyrebird Park
Beenak Rd, Yellingbo
Melways 307 K10

*Cost of \$85 is subsidised by sponsors such as Bendigo Bank, Bunnings and Yarra Ranges Council.

Contact Kids of Gold
0447 309 832 (Gary) or 0403 271
987 (Melissa) to hold a place
and/or find out more

What's on in July for father figures?

City of Casey

It is almost July and there are LOTS of great activities for father figures to come along to!

These activities are offered for FREE by the community-led dads' and father figures' groups in Casey, as well as council's Sustainability & Environment team, and the Dads Group organisation.

Check out the list below and the links to register for each.

Soccer World Cup Fun

Sunday 5 July | 11:00am - 12:30pm

Hosted by the Clyde North Dad Squad

Orana Community Place

Join the Clyde North Dad Squad for a morning of soccer fun. Kick a ball, score a goal with your child, and meet other local father figures. And grab a bite to eat.

For children aged 7 years and under.

👉 Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLFWJ>

Mysterious Mushrooms

Wednesday 8 July | 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Hosted by the City of Casey Sustainability & Environment team

Old Cheese Factory, Berwick

Mushrooms play a vital role in our environment, and we're inviting curious minds to come explore why! In this hands-on workshop, kids will dive into the amazing world of fungi. We'll learn all about mushrooms and then you can get creative and craft your own mini mushroom garden using air-dry clay.

👉 Book here <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1555184>

Fatherhood Space

Friday 10 July | 7:00pm, Friday 24 July | 7:00pm

Hosted by the Brotherhood of Men 23

Hallam Reservation Recreation Hall, 118-126 Frawley Rd, Hallam

Join other local men from Casey to chat about life, fatherhood and your everyday experience. No pressure, no stress. Just a bunch of friendly blokes talking and getting to know each other.

No reservation needed, just come along on the night.

PlayDaze - 50th event celebration!

Thursday 16 July | 10:00am - 11:30am

Hosted by the City of Casey Playgroups team

Fleetwood Primary School, Performing Arts Centre, 97 Fleetwood Dr, Narre Warren

Join the Playgroups and Dads Matter teams to celebrate the 50th PlayDaze event in the City of Casey! For families of children aged 0-5 years. This is a FREE event with fun play activities, art, imagination play, musical instruments, and a quiet baby area. As a special surprise, there will also be a Butterfly Adventure and bubble fun with Dr Hubble.

Bookings are not required, please just come along and have fun with your children. Make sure to bring your own snacks and water.

Gardening Together – July session

Saturday 18 July | 10:00am – 11:30am

Gardening Together: dads, kids & grandfathers

Old Cheese Factory Community Garden

A relaxed and welcoming gardening session for dads, grandfathers and children. No experience needed – just come along, get involved, and enjoy learning together in a calm outdoor space.

For children aged up to 8 years of age.

👉 Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIZAS>

Night Walk

Monday 20 July | 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Hosted by the Cranbourne Dads' Group

Morning Mist Reserve, Cranbourne South

Bring your children for a spotlighting adventure! Meet some of our nocturnal animals as they wake up and begin their day, just as the sun goes down. Please bring along a torch or a spotlight.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE – this activity will host a small group, so that we do not disturb the animals. This activity is supported by the City of Casey Sustainability & Environment team.

For children aged up to 7 years of age.

👉 Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DKABX>

Dads Golf Night

Wednesday 22 July | 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Hosted by Dads Group

X-Golf Clyde North

A relaxed evening session for dads to hit balls, eat pizza, have a drink, and connect with other fathers – no scorecards, no expectations. Just turn up, have a swing, and enjoy the company.

👉 Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dads-golf-night-social-golf-with-other-dads-city-of-casey-tickets-1986393535537>



FATHERHOOD SPACE

A GATHERING OF MEN,
DADS, SONS, BROTHERS AND MATES.

FRIDAY 26TH

7PM

HALLAM RESERVATION RECREATION HALL

118-126 FRAWLEY RD, HALLAM

REAL CONVERSATIONS. STRONGER CONNECTIONS. BROTHERHOOD.



July Activities

for dads & kids in Casey

JULY 05

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM
Soccer World Cup Fun



JULY 8

2.00 PM - 4.00 PM
Mysterious Mushrooms



JULY 10

7.00 PM
Fatherhood Space men's group



JULY 16

10.00 AM - 11.30 AM
50th PlayDaze event



JULY 18

10.00 AM - 11.30 AM
Gardening Together



JULY 20

6.00 PM - 7.30 PM
Night Walk



JULY 22

7.00 PM - 9.00 PM
Dads' Golf Night



JULY 24

7.00 PM
Fatherhood Space men's group



These community-led groups are supported by:



50th PLAYDAZE EVENT!



Discover, Learn, Play



Come and celebrate our 50th PlayDaze! Families with children 0 – 5 years are invited to join us for free, fun playgroup activities, including Butterfly Adventures and Bubble fun!

DATE: Thursday 16 July, 2026

TIME: 10.00 am – 11:30 am

LOCATION: Fleetwood Primary School

Performing Arts Centre

97 Fleetwood Drive, Narre Warren

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/fydu1kyiQ16sKmhS8>

Bookings are not required. Bring your own snacks and water.

Contact the City of Casey:

Web: [casey.vic.gov.au](https://www.casey.vic.gov.au)

Email: casey@casey.vic.gov.au

Phone: 03 9705 6200

Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805

NRS: 133 6777 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

Narre Warren: Bunjill Place, Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren

Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne

ABN: 43 320 295 742



185 131460 (Translating and Interpreting Service) 聯絡電話: 185 131460

CASEYVIC.GOV.AU



TERM 3

JULY / AUGUST

2026

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
12 JULY Week 1	13 Curriculum Day Learning Focus Forums 9:00 – 4:30	14 First Day Term 3 	15 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm	16	17 State Cross Country 	18
19 Week 2	20  Parent Helper Induction 3:15pm	21	22	23 Yr 3 Camp Info Session 5-5:30pm 	24	25
26 Week 3	27	28	29 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm	30	31	1 AUGUST
2 Week 4	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Week 5	10	11	12 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm	13	14  Yr 2 Dream City Incursion	15  Little Birdie Market 10am-2pm