# BELLBRAE BULLETIN

**WEDNESDAY 11th March 2026**

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**Issue 3**

**Principal – Dr. Adrian Waters**

**Assistant Principal – Mr. Brad Venn**

# THIS WEEK FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Grade Six Camp** – Thanks to the staff and parents who assisted with the Grade Six Camp last week. From all reports it went really well, and the students loved all the activities on offer. It's been a big week for our seniors, as some students went straight down to Warrnambool for a Nippers Carnival following the camp, and another group has left for the Somers Educational Camp which runs for the next 10 days! We also have the Cross Country for Grade 3-6 next week, so we certainly acknowledge how healthy, fit and energetic the children are who attend our school.

**NAPLAN** – This week marks the beginning of the NAPLAN assessments for students in Grade Three and Five. It is one of the many assessments we use to help judge student progress and inform our teaching and learning program. We are aware that some students get anxious about this type of assessment, but please be assured we try and provide a stress-free learning environment and a positive approach to the tests. As the tests don't accurately measure creativity, social skills, critical thinking and emotional development, we use other metrics to assess these areas.

**School Council –** The School Council AGM will be held on Monday 16th March at 5pm. After the AGM, the first meeting of the new School Council will be held and Office Bearers for 2026 will be elected.

**School Review** – Thank you to the parents who have responded to Mr Venn that were invited to participate in a session with the Review Panel. The reviewer seeks input from staff, students, parents and 'challenge partners,' who are principals of other local schools. Once all our performance and attitudinal data has been scrutinised and input from external entities has been sought, the Review Panel aligns this information with our self-evaluation in an effort to inform the new Strategic Plan.

**MAYFAIR –** Just a reminder that we will once again be running our annual Mayfair on the second weekend of next term, Sunday 3rd May. A big thank you to Emily Torney and her group of helpers who will be coordinating the event. It is our major fundraiser for the year, and your support translates into improved infrastructure and learning opportunities for all or students. As an example, the new playground at the front of the school was entirely funded by the MAYFAIR!
Hope you are all enjoying the start of autumn and have a great weekend.

**Adrian Waters - Principal**

# 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|---|
| **MARCH 2026** | |
| Wednesday 11th | Year 3 & 5 Naplan - Writing |
| Friday 13th | Year 3 & 5 Naplan - Reading |
| Tuesday 17th | Year 3 & 5 Naplan – Language |
| Thursday 19th | Year 3 & 5 Naplan - Numeracy |
| Wednesday 18th | Grades 3-6 BPS Cross Country |
| Thursday 19th | Whole School Photos |
| Friday 20th | Year 2 Werribee Mansion Excursion |
| Friday 20th | Assembly @ 2.45 in Gymnasium |
| Wednesday 25th | The Protectors- Brainstorm Production<br>9:45am - 10:45am (Year P - 2) - 11:45am - 12:45pm (Year 3 - 6) |
| Friday 27th | Grades 5/6 City to Surf Summer Lightning Premiership |
| Tuesday 31st | Assembly @ 9.05 in Gymnasium – Last for Term 1 |
| **APRIL 2026** | |
| Wednesday 1st | Girls Grade 6 Football |
| **Thursday 2nd** | **Last Day Term 1 – 2.30 Dismissal** |
| **Friday 3rd** | **Good Friday Public Holiday – No School** |
| Monday 20th | First Day Term 2 |
| **MAY 2026** | |
| **Friday 1st** | Assembly @ 2.45 in Gymnasium |
| **Sunday 3rd** | **MAYFAIR** |
| **Monday 11th** | **Grade 3 Day Camp – Camp Wyuna** |
| **JUNE 2026** | |
| **Thurs 4th – Fri 5th** | **Grade 3 Overnight Camp – Camp Wyuna** |

# Potential Industrial Action on Tuesday 24th March

As parents and carers may be aware, staff at our school who are Australian Education Union (AEU) members have been negotiating, alongside teachers, education support staff, assistant principals, and principals from public schools around Victoria, with the state government and Department of Education for improvements to pay and employment conditions. Negotiations have been occurring over the last seven months, and the state government has not made any offer at all to this point in time. Currently, Victorian public schools are the lowest funded in Australia and there are significant staffing shortages across Victoria. Victorian public school teachers are also the lowest paid teachers in Australia, with many education support employees and school leaders paid less than their colleagues in other state and territories who do the same role.

AEU members are seeking pay increases and reductions to excessive workloads, with the aim of ensuring the retention of existing employees and the attraction of the next generation to enable the ongoing provision of a high-quality education to students. Because there has not been any offer, AEU members are undertaking a vote to endorse industrial action, with the union calling a statewide 24-hour stop work for Tuesday 24th March, should the government not respond properly to key claims. The AEU has written to our school council outlining some of the issues that school staff need resolved, including school funding and staffing shortages, as well as pay and conditions. The union acknowledges that a decision to stop work is not one to be taken lightly and regrets the impact it has on students and their families, with the state government able to avoid such action if a fair and decent offer is made to employees. If the industrial action goes ahead, we will provide our school community with all the information needed to manage the situation.
It goes without saying that as a school community we support all of the staff in our school and expect them to be paid reasonably and have fair conditions of work.

# BELLBRAE PS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

*Proudly supporting Bellbrae Primary School*

**The Bellbrae Primary School Business Directory highlights some of our amazing local businesses from trades to healthcare professionals.**

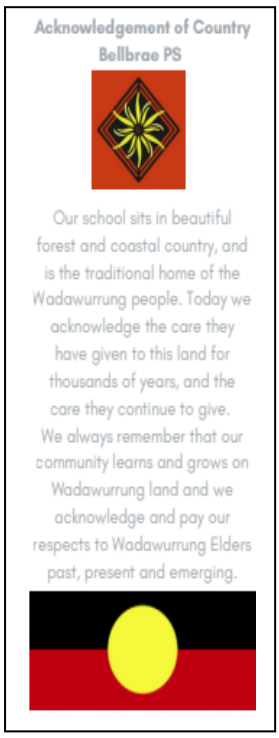
***Please support the businesses that support us!***

[CLICK HERE] **to view the directory.**

**If you'd like to list your business, please complete the registration form found on the Contact Us page of the directory website or click on the link below.**

Bellbrae Business Directory Registration Form

# WADAWURRUNG LANGUAGE



Pronounced- toolum

Pronounced- kawark

# 2026 BIRTHDAYS 7th – 20th MARCH

| MARCH | |
|---|---|
| 7th | Huxley Bird & Jasper Jones |
| 8th | Millie Backhouse & Spencer Martin |
| 9th | Jack Tabak |
| 10th | Anastasia Hennessy |
| 11th | Sunny Campbell |
| 12th | Jimmy Duff & Stevie Elsden |
| 13th | Billy Dullard |
| 14th | Izzy Greene |
| 17th | Olive Infield |
| 18th | Ella Wood |
| 20th | Scarlett Morrish |

# SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR
# VALUE AWARDS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sebastian Fox<br>4A | Quinn Bitmead<br>FB | Olive Dillon<br>6A | Sol Zinn<br>FC |
| Charlie Herreen<br>2B | Harper Molloy<br>5A | Lenny Cox<br>1C | Sol Ellis<br>2A |
| Banks Bowen<br>2B | Ted Betts<br>3C | Gus Thompson<br>1D | Austin Pike<br>1B |
| Anastasia Hennessy<br>3C | Alice Feery<br>1C | Scout Keyte<br>2A | Lila Stanley<br>3A |
| Maeaea Lumsden<br>1D | Alfie Glen<br>5C | Gracie Beel<br>5C | Felix Taylor<br>FD |
| Harry Hissey<br>4C | Matilda Hilbert<br>4A | Sunny O'Brien<br>5B | Elka Ogden<br>2B |
| Jarrah Young<br>4C | Eliza Thornton<br>3B | Maggie Hammond<br>FD | |
| Bella Hebbard<br>1B | Summer Wilkinson<br>FB | | |
| Lucinda Marceau<br>5B | Daisy May Davis<br>FC | | |
| Riley Knights<br>3B | | | |
| Frankie Pacconi<br>FB | | | |
| Ernesto Thevenon<br>4B | | | |
| Reymi Morgan<br>2B | | | |
| Alby Hastings<br>1A | | | |
| Finnegan O'Neil<br>FC | | | |

# WELFARE NEWS

***Our school is now subscribed to the Happy Families School Membership! Owned and run by Dr Justin Coulson, one of Australia's leading parenting experts, the membership offers a wealth of parenting education and resources. We will regularly share resources available through our membership with you, including Insight Articles and Live Webinars.***

***Insights Articles - A new Insights article is released weekly during the term, and we will include these with the school newsletter. Insights articles are written by Dr Justin Coulson and provide parenting education and support for a wide variety of traditional and contemporary parenting challenges.***

***Live Webinars - ANSWERS with Dr JUSTIN COULSON is a live webinar series for all schools across Australia. Each term, Dr Justin will tackle a hot button parenting issue, providing your parent and teacher community with timely and relevant support. We will announce upcoming webinar details in our school newsletter and/or Compass.***

***Please Click on Link below (new one each newsletter)***

***Term 1 Issue 5: Resilience is Relational***

- ***Insights 050126: Resilience is Relational***

***Term 1 Issue 6: Buy the Why***

- ***Insights 070126 Buy the Why***

***Term 1 Webinar Recording: Anti-fragile, Building Resilient Kids Through Life's Challenges***

- ***Answers with Dr Justin Coulson | Anti-Fragile***