



What's On?

Each Wednesday
Canteen \$6
Minestrone Soup
& Garlic Bread

25 August
Musica Viva Concert

26 August
Book Week Parade

29 August
Pupil Free Day

12 September
Footy Day

16 September
Last day Term 3

3 October
First day Term 4

Hi Everyone,

Can you believe we are over halfway through term 3! Winter is nearly over, and we certainly can't wait to welcome the lovely spring weather. It has been terrific to see our students working hard throughout this term. Over the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see the wonderful learning happening across the school.



Vocational Education Training (VET) Innovation

This year the school has been fortunate to receive a grant to improve the design and delivery of VET teaching and learning programs, in consultation with the partner schools and registered training organisations.

Olivia, Brad and I have been working on this project. Last week, with the support from Boyd Maplestone and Simon Taylor from the Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley LLEN's, we hosted our very first workshop with special schools in the northwest region. It was a terrific opportunity for us to network with other schools and work together to unpack what VET delivery looks like in special schools. The day provided a good platform for us to work through some of the highlights and challenges of VET programs.

The group of 10 schools that attended the workshop have agreed to work together to improve and enhance our VET offerings. We are excited about this project and hope it will create more choice for our students in the future.



My Career Insights Program

I am pleased to announce that our senior school students have finished working through their Morrisby Online Career Profiling Tool and this week all students have participated in a 1:1 session with a Morrisby-trained Careers Consultant.

This session has provided a good opportunity for our students to unpack their career profile and look at possible pathways that match their abilities, interests and personality.



Work Experience Opportunities in Senior School

We have some terrific work experience opportunities for our senior school students this year. Coles and the Brotherhood of St Laurence have been hosting placements for us over several years. We are excited to have the Punthill Apartments in Essendon join our work experience network. Zippi the hotel manager and her team have been so welcoming to our students. I am delighted about this opportunity for our students.



Cont/d ...

Work experience provides a great platform for our students to apply their learning into the real-world experiences. Our two girls are enjoying learning about the hospitality industry at the Punthill Apartments and are putting their skills to good work. ☺

Riverside Women' Charity Day

We are excited about the opportunity to support the Riverside Women's Golf Club host their annual charity day again this year after having to cancel it over the last couple of years. This event will be hosted on the 14th September. The Riverside Women's Golf Club has donated more than \$100, 000 across nearly 20 years. They are huge advocates for our school and work tirelessly throughout the year to gain donations for this day. We are lucky to be sponsored by this wonderful club.

Cheers, Susanne

ALLIED HEALTH NEWS

This week AVHS are celebrating Speech Pathology Week!

The aim of this week is to promote the speech pathology profession and the work done by speech pathologists who support the 1.2million Australians who have a communication disability. Communication is a basic human right and Speech Week seeks to make Australian's aware of this.

The theme for this year is...

'Good Communication, Better Communication.'

- Natalliya, AVHS Speech Pathologist

Silent Morning Tea

On Monday, staff participated in a Silent Morning Tea. This aimed to raise awareness for people who live with communication difficulties. Staff used their different communication devices (i.e. AVAZ app, communication boards, Key Word Sign & natural gesture) to communicate with one another.

Staff reflected on how they are continuing to provide communication access for all and what their communication partner goals are...



"My goal is to make sure I use my core-board both in the classroom & in other contexts like outside play!"

- Tanya, Rm 8 Education



"I want to model my communication device out in the garden!"

- Leeanne, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program



"I make sure communication boards are accessible to students. I have one on every door in the classroom."

- Sharni, Rm 11 Education Support



"I make sure I provide processing time for our students."

- Tara, Kitchen & Rm 3 Education Support



I have my communication board on my lanyard to ensure I have communication access at all times!

- Ivanka, Rm 4 Education Support



I use Key Word Sign simultaneously with verbal speech when providing classroom instructions.

- Zoe, Rm 1 Classroom

In Room 4 we have been reading Dreamtime stories as part of our inquiry unit Indigenous Australia. Here are some drawings of the characters from Tiddalick the Frog.

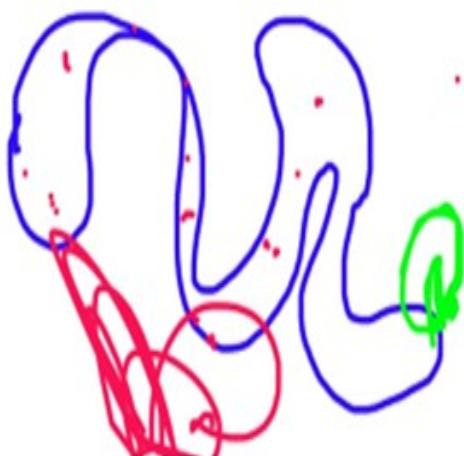
KOO kagum



Kookaburra by Sarita



Frog by Danny



Eel by Zacky



Kangaroo by Riyan



Koala by Agnes

ROOM 4



Rooms 6 and 9

Whilst we have had quite a few Senior Secondary students out on Work Experience placements this term, those that have remained at school have been busy preparing the Canteen lunch orders every Wednesday.

The students have worked collaboratively and enthusiastically to prepare our warm hearty lunches and deliver them to the classrooms.

A huge thank you to our wonderful school community for your on going support of our program.

Good afternoon Parents and Carers,

As the President of our school council, I am writing to you to inform you of some of the work that the school council has been advocating for on behalf of our school community over the last year.

As your school councilors, we thank Nance Sidoti, our new Principal, for her recent update in our school newsletter which showcased the new spaces. Nance also explained the decanting process which enables the building works to continue whilst students are still at school.

We as parents understand the challenges and patience required whilst the building works are occurring, and while we appreciate that the new building works already underway will improve some spaces around the school; the current budget and extent of the building works approved by the Victorian Government are simply not enough.

Unfortunately, our school did not receive the allocation of funding in the Victorian Government 2022/2023 budget required to properly fund the school's development master plan; and without full funding, the school is unable to undertake the scope of works required to bring all of the buildings up to modern standards.

This means that while we will have some wonderful newly refurbished areas in the school that will provide more stimulating and engaging workspaces, a significant portion of buildings will remain in their current state – unrenovated and in desperate need of repair. We have included some images in the following page that highlight areas of the school that will remain as they are, and not a part of the approved building budget. The consequence of this is that only some students will be able to benefit from the new learning environments, and all of the secondary school Classrooms, the Kitchen, the Allied Health Room, Staff areas and the First Aid Room will miss out. We feel that this is unfair to both our students and the wider school community.

Danny Pearson received correspondence from the School Council on the funding shortfalls for the basic school upgrades in June 2021 and visited the school in April 2022 to view the works ongoing in the junior school.

Additionally we have written letters to the former Victorian Education Minister - James Merlino and the Premier – Daniel Andrews in May 2022 and also asked for an explanation on the current funding shortfalls for the Ascot Vale Heights School from our local Member of Parliament - Danny Pearson, MP.

We have been advised by the Victorian Government that AVHS has received all funding budgeted at present to undertake building works, however the vast bulk of the works required to upgrade the school to modern building standards cannot be done within the current funding allocation. We received a response from the office of new Education Minister, the Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP in June 2022, advising there will be no further budget allocation to fulfill the AVHS building masterplan. Naturally we are very disappointed with this response and the ongoing failure of the government to properly fund the facilities required by our children.

It is disheartening to see that Ascot Vale Heights School has also not been included in the Victorian Budget Schools and Specials Schools 2022/2023 upgrade, as noted here <https://www.budget.vic.gov.au/major-upgrades-classrooms-and-special-schools>.

We will continue to advocate as a school council on behalf of our school community and have planned further advocacy with the Victorian Government.

Cont'd...

What can you do?

If you would like to help and support our advocacy for the school, we encourage you to correspond with our local Member of Parliament – Danny Pearson to request further information on the current shortfall in the funding required for our School and explanation of what the current state Labor government are doing to properly support students with special needs.

You can find his details [here in this link](#) or use:

Email: danny.pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

Address: Suite 1, 28 Shuter Street, Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039

Phone: (03) 9370 7777

An example of how you can help by sending an email and using these points as a guide:

- Asking for an explanation of why we didn't receive enough funding when our students are in need of improved learning facilities.
- Asking why we were not included in the Victorian Budget Schools and Special Schools 2022/2023 upgrade when our students are in need as much as any other school.
- Asking why newer and better equipped special schools were allocated funding instead of Ascot Vale Heights, which is in desperate need of repair and modernisation,
- You could also speak to the disruption of learning at the school and the impacts it has had on your child.

Thank you for your time, I hope that together we can secure a better outcome for our children and all future students at Ascot Vale Heights School and we appreciate your support to our advocacy plan.

Regards,

**Anthony Charles
President
Ascot Vale Heights School Council**





Allied Health Office



Resource Room



Multiple Staff Offices



First Aid Room



Kitchen



Dreaming With eyes

open

BOOK WEEK PARADE

WHEN: FRIDAY 26TH

DRESS UP IN YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER FROM A BOOK



Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre

Post Office: Blackwood VIC 3550, Australia
Phone: (03) 5368 6768 Fax: (03) 5368 6838
E-mail: blackwood.specialschools.oec@education.vic.gov.au
Internet: www.blackwoodoec.vic.edu.au



Have you considered a: Traineeship in Outdoor Leadership (Certificate IV)

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre (Blackwood) is a Residential Outdoor School run by the Department of Education exclusively for students enrolled within Victorian Government Special Schools.

Surrounded by the Wombat State Forest Blackwood provides a variety of Outdoor Education programs for students of all ages and abilities within Special Schools.

While working full time at Blackwood during the academic weeks, Trainees are supported through the completion of a Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership, a 12-month course run through the Box Hill Institute and Trainees will gain knowledge in all aspects of the program offered.

Trainees may develop skills in:

- Climbing
- Canoeing
- Rafting
- Bushwalking
- Mountain Biking
- Orienteering
- Skiing

Trainees will also be required to attend TAFE based training, and may also be required to implement Blackwood Programs, across a range of locations in Victoria.

If you are interested in applying for a position could you please send the following:

1. Current resume highlighting experience relevant to the Certificate IV Outdoor Leadership position.
2. List of 3 referees with their contact details. At least one of these referees should refer to a personal context and one a professional context.
3. A succinct one-page document outlining what it is that you hope to achieve whilst at Blackwood and how you intend to use your experiences in the future.

• Applications CLOSE: Friday 9th September 2022

Please email applications to blackwood.specialschools.oec@education.vic.gov.au

For more information, to register your interest or organise a tour of our facilities please contact Tony Bellette (Campus Principal) on: 5368-6768



A destination for exploration

Notes

- Support ratios are determined through initial assessment and consultation with participants/families.
- Out of pocket expenses will be charged to 1:1 participants to cover the cost of meals & accommodation. NDIS cost for all other support ratios is based on STA support category which is inclusive of meals and accommodation.
- Start and finish time are indicative and may vary.
- Pick up and drop off is offered as part of our service (within 30-40 minutes travel distance from CBD).
- NDIS costs are subject to change in NDIS Price Guide.

NDIS COST	1:1	1:2	1:3
Friday 5pm – Sunday 5pm	\$3,508.33	\$2,813.32	\$1,939.79
Monday 9am – Thursday 5pm	\$4,552.85	\$3,534.93	\$2,570.80



Trainee Job Statement 2023



CERTIFICATE IV

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP TRAINEESHIP

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre (Blackwood) is excited to announce its' annual traineeship positions. There are two (2) positions available. We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working people who have an interest in Outdoor Education as a career to apply for the 12 month full time position. The position requires studying for a Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership as well as working full time at Blackwood.

Blackwood is one of the 11 campuses of the Residential Outdoor Schools Association (ROSA) Network and is seeking young, enthusiastic people who have an interest in pursuing Outdoor Education as a career to apply for their two Outdoor Recreation Traineeships for 2023.

Blackwood is a destination exclusively for students from Victorian Special Schools, where they are given every opportunity to laugh, live, learn and grow through outdoor adventure-based programs.

Surrounded by the stunning Wombat State Forest, Blackwood was established in 1970 and provides the ideal setting for adventure, environmental, creative and developmental programs aimed at extending the abilities of students with special needs. The layout of the School complements and utilises the natural beauty of the property to provide a variety of lesson sites designed to challenge students both individually, and, within a team environment to further their personal, emotional, social and physical development.

The Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership is a 12 month course with students gaining knowledge in all aspects of the program offered. Students will be required to attend training at the Box Hill Institute (TAFE) and various venues around the state.

Blackwood will provide every opportunity possible to enable these to be successfully completed. The Certificate IV students will gain knowledge in all aspects of the program offered. Students will be required to attend training at a range of locations across the state as well as attend theory sessions through the:-

Faculty Of ICT, Business, Sport & Creative Industries
Box Hill Institute
Lilydale Lakeside Campus, Building LC, Office 323
Jarlo Drive Lilydale, Victoria 3104
W www.boxhill.edu.au



CAMPING • ACTIVITIES •

Location: Bellarine Peninsula Date: 19th – 22nd September Monday: Eastern Beach Playground, Fish and Chips Tuesday: Bellarine Railway Train Ride, Bellarine Botanic Gardens Wednesday: Ferry to Sorrento, Ocean Grove Nature Reserve Thursday: Mini Golf Out of Pocket Expense: \$300
Location: Bendigo Date: 26th – 29th September Monday: Park and Picnic Tuesday: Central Deborah Gold Mine, Vintage Talking Tram Tour Wednesday: Golden Dragon Museum, Pottery Making Thursday: Discovery Science & Technology Centre, Lake Weeroona Out of Pocket Expense: \$300
Location: Sassafras Date: 4th – 6th November Friday: Dinner, Drive to Camp Site Saturday: Puffing Billy, Kokoda Bush Walk Sunday: Alfred Nicholas Memorial Garden Out of Pocket Expense: \$200
Location: Werribee Date: 7th – 9th October Friday: Pizza & Camp fire Saturday: Zoo & Safari Sunday: Bowling Out of Pocket Expense: \$200
Location: Toongarook Date: 18th – 20th November Friday: Dinner, Drive to Camp Site Saturday: Hot Springs, Murray's Lookout Sunday: Fort Nepean Out of Pocket Expense: \$200

For bookings & enquiries, Please email : admin@kapability.com.au Or Call 0398597267

Every student, every day to be given the opportunity to be the best they can be.