



Marong Primary School

Respect | Responsibility | Honesty

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 20, 2026 – Issue 4

SCHOOL VALUES

At Marong Primary School, we are committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. Our core values guide our actions and shape our community:

- Respect: We treat everyone with kindness, consideration, and value their unique contributions.
- Responsibility: We take ownership of our actions, make responsible choices, and contribute positively to our school and community.
- Honesty: We act with integrity, communicate truthfully, and build trust in all our relationships.



On behalf of the students of Marong Primary School, we would like to respectfully acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung as the traditional owners of the land and pay our respects to elders past and present. We are grateful to learn, play and grow surrounded by the plants, animals & waterways that the Djaara people have watched over and cared for, over thousands of years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Walk/ride to school
- Clean up Australia Day
- Classroom family activity

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Prep rest days – 25th Feb
- PFA meeting – 3:40 17th Feb
- Clean up Australia Day – 27th Feb

CLUBS UPDATE

Reading Club – 8:45 every morning in Miss O's room for any student wanting a reading session signed in their diary.

Drawing Club- each Tuesday during the first half of lunch, students have the opportunity to join in some quiet drawing in the PAC ran by Miss O with the assistance of some wonder 3/4 helpers.

REMINDERS

All students require a broad brim hat in term 1. Please ensure children have a drink bottle and a packed lunch.



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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 13, 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Positive school environments are important because everyone has the right to be safe and play a shared role in being respectful. Everyone at school, particularly staff and parents/carers, play a role in making school a better place for learning and work.

Respectful behaviours are important in building strong, healthy and thriving school communities. We are currently working on respectful lining up, using walking feet and voices off to enter and exit our buildings in a safe way. 1/2R were being role models for this.

Parents/carers can create a positive environment for learning and work by: modelling positive behaviour to their child/children and to the school community communicating politely and respectfully with all members of the school community working with the school to achieve the best outcomes for their child/children treating all school staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

We are here to assist with any of your concerns. As per our Parent/Guardian matrix which can be found on our website, please address any safety concerns with teachers/office staff. A reminder parents/guardians are not to approach other students to address these concerns.

See the attached flyer to next Friday's Clean Up Australia Day Family activity. We can't wait to see you all here.



PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Willow M – Willow has been seen many times including the younger students in the down ball game. She has supported them by telling them how to play, explaining the rules and encouraging their efforts. Well done Willow M!

Michael-James – Has settled in so well to our school and has given everything his very best effort this week. Well done Michael-James!

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

The first school council meeting will be Wednesday the 25th of February at 6pm.

The AGM will be 25th of March.

If you're interested in joining, please see Trudy or Katie.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The first meeting was held last Tuesday. Ms Lovel outlined some new information for PFA and provided a report on what's happening around the school. It was great to see some input from families on things they'd like to see. Watch out for AGM details. A great club to join!



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS MESSAGE

There are clear boundaries about how adults in our school community interact with children at Marong PS.



Marong
Primary School
Respect | Responsibility | Honesty



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

2.15PM FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 27TH



2.15- 2.30 - FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO BYO A PICNIC LUNCH
TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD/REN

2.30 - 3.10PM - CLEAN UP MARONG -
P-2 AT SCHOOL

3 -4 - AROUND THE SCHOOL FENCE

5 - 6 MALONE PARK

3.10PM - COLLATE HOW MUCH RUBBISH WE'VE COLLECTED

3.15 - 3.30PM FAMILIES ARE INVITED INTO CLASSROOMS FOR
STUDENTS TO SHARE SOME WORK THEY'RE MOST PROUD OF



GRADE PREP

What we achieved this week!

We are so proud of the students' effort and enthusiasm – they are showing great confidence and a wonderful willingness to have a go at new learning!

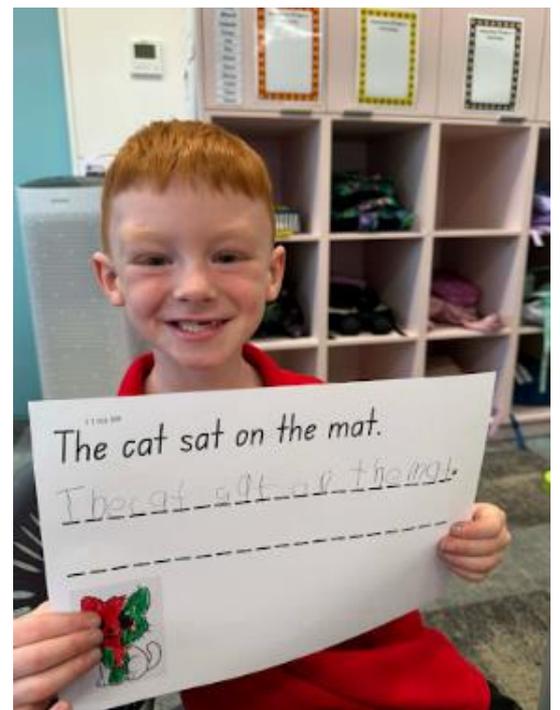
In Sounds-Write, students have been learning the new sounds **n, o and p** through *word building* and *sound swap* activities. Some of our focus words have included **nap, pin, man and pot**. It has been fantastic seeing students carefully say each sound and blend them together to read words independently. In Writing, we have continued learning about sentence structure and have begun our Nursery Rhymes unit. This week we focused on *Miss Polly*. Students had an awesome go at writing words such as **Polly, dolly and bed**, and practised putting the story into the correct sequence.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on number formation, particularly the numbers **6–10**. Students have also been matching numbers to quantities using hands-on manipulatives as well as drawing and colouring to represent amounts.



Reminders

- Next Wednesday the 25th is the final foundation rest day. Prep students will commence full weeks from Monday 2nd March.
- Please ensure library books are returned each Monday.



GRADE 1/2

What we achieved this week!

This week in Reading, we were introduced to the book *Ask Aunty Seasons*. We explored the six different seasons of Bardi Country and learned how seasonal changes are identified through shifts in tides, mosquito activity, and weather patterns. Students enjoyed discovering how closely nature is observed to understand these changes.

In Writing, we focused on informative texts and were introduced to common nouns and proper nouns. Students practised creating sentences that included both a common and a proper noun. On Friday, we were treated to some fantastic pieces during *Free Write Friday* – it was wonderful to see such creativity and effort on display!

In Maths, we worked on adding and subtracting numbers to 20 using a variety of strategies. Students practised counting forwards and backwards and were introduced to the “split strategy” to support addition.

In Integrated Studies, we explored how transportation has changed since the 1800s. We compared horse and cart travel to modern buses and discussed how transportation has evolved over time.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Williams, Mr Riordan, Miss Thorn, Hayley, Jai, Christine and Jobe.



GRADE 3/4

What we achieved this week!

Week four and our brains are filling up more!
 This week has been jam packed with learning and routines. We have really settled into the year now and have loved getting to know our classmates better. We have adopted the 'Westcott way' and have created line orders to create more orderly transitions between classes.

This week we have...

Reading- our hero in our novel is stranded on an island and we are on the edge of our seats waiting to see how he will survive his explorations.

Math- studying addition and subtraction, we learnt vertical addition with and without regrouping. And began doing worded subtraction with borrowing in math. Students were working between 2-6 digit numbers and enjoyed their weekly rotation session.

Writing- we have been prepping for our final week on persuasive writing, arguing whether to bring their devices to school or to get a school pet dog. Their statements and reasoning have been wonderfully thought out and we found them very convincing.
Integrated studies - creating our own crafty compasses with paper plates to help us 'navigate' around the school.

Wellbeing- students created positive affirmations poster, with all their positive qualities.

ICT- we looked at the user agreement for using technology use, we learnt how to save a document in the right files and became more confident with logging on.

We have noticed in all grades this week that students have been making "jokes" at the expense of others and "roasting" other students. We have spoken to all the students about interacting kindly amongst their peers and the power that words can have. Please take some time to chat to your student, reminding them that a joke makes others feel happy, not something to make fun of someone.



Reminders

- Please ensure you are listening to your student read 5 SESSIONS A WEEK, this is checked weekly and makes a real difference.
- Music program has started, please remember your own guitars each Tuesday if your child is in the session.
- Lunch orders and Zooper Doopers can be ordered on the QRK app
- Join our school Facebook page for updates and reminders



GRADE 5/6

What we achieved this week!

Week 4 has been another busy and productive week of learning for the Grade 5/6 students. In Literacy, students continued with partner and independent reading, focusing on fluency, comprehension and discussing texts in detail. As part of our spelling and phonics work, students explored the Sounds Write /ee/ sound, identifying different ways it can be represented in words.

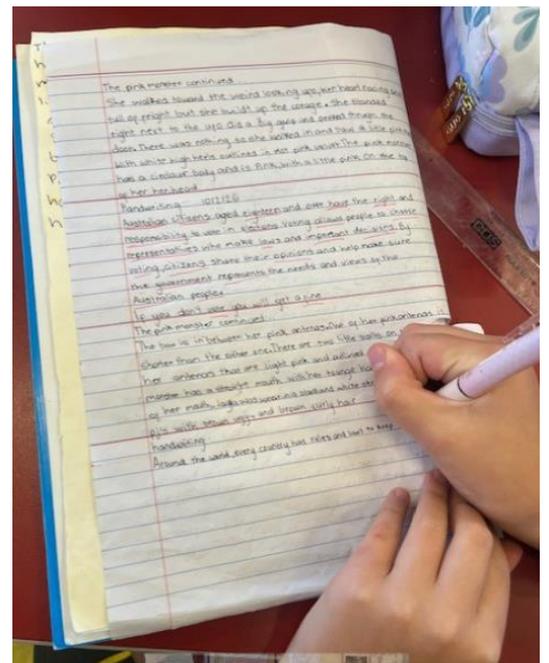
In writing, students continued to develop their narrative texts, focusing on creating dynamic dialogue to reveal character and move the story forward. Students also participated in Pen Wars, practising quotation marks and character dialogue.

In Mathematics, students focused on multiplication strategies, using a range of methods to solve problems efficiently and accurately. Lessons included explicit teaching, guided practice and independent tasks to support students at different ability levels.

In Integrated Studies, learning centred on political parties, bias, and how bills are created and passed. Students explored how different viewpoints can influence decision-making and the importance of being informed when engaging with political information.

It was another strong week of learning, with students continuing to build confidence, skills and independence across all areas.

Miss Burton, Mr Johnstone, Mr Fry and Chelsie.



Reminders

- Please remember to bring in HOME READING DIARIES on your scheduled reading day.
- Grade 5 students will be sitting NAPLAN in Week 7.
- Next Friday is Clean Up Australia Day.
- Families are invited to join us for a Parent Picnic Lunch at 2:15 pm.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Grade Prep - Jess

Angus G - Angus arrives at school with a big smile on his face every morning. Angus leads by example in the classroom. He is often first to the floor, sitting on his dot listening respectfully. Angus follows instructions and gives every task his best effort. Super effort Angus, keep up the great work!

Grade Prep - Mrs Cook

Larniee - Larniee has had the most amazing week settling in and her confidence has grown each day. She gives every activity 110% and is always kind to all the other students. Larniee we are so proud of how you are settling in, you are a SUPERSTAR!

Grade ½ Williams

Ella W - Ella is a superstar! Day in, day out Ella consistently tries her hardest and always challenges herself. Ella is an incredibly kind and considerate friend who demonstrates many great leadership qualities. Keep up the fabulous work, Ella!

Grade ½ Riordan

Leah LB - For demonstrating confidence and persistence in her learning this week. It has been wonderful to see Leah putting in her best learning each day. She listens, follows instructions and gets right to work. Not only is she a kind and helpful student, she demonstrates our classroom values consistently each day. Well done Leah.

Grade ½ Thorn and Hayley

Isabella SJ - Isabella is our Student of the Week. She has settled into the school year really well. Isabella is hard working and is a kind and considerate classmate. Keep it up Isabella!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Grade 3/4 Miss O

Maverick N - It has been wonderful getting to know Maverick over the last few weeks and see him shine at the beginning of grade 3. He has lead the change with high work ethic and neat presentation. He is also being kind in the yard and making wonderful choices in managing conflicts that have arisen amongst some of his friends. Go Mav!

Grade 3/4 Westcott

Dawson M - Dawson consistently demonstrates respect in every interaction at school. He begins each day with a positive attitude and is always willing to lend a helping hand or check in with others to see how they are going. Well done, Dawson!

Grade 3/4 Lamb

Ashlyn F - Ashlyn has had such a fantastic week! She is enjoying special friendships in our class and working beautifully with her peers. She is showing great effort in her learning and should feel very proud of herself. Ashlyn continues to shine as a kind and caring role model for younger students, always showing our school values and spreading happiness wherever she goes. Keep it up, Ashlyn.

Grade 5/6 Johnstone

Olivia S - Congratulations Olivia! This week, she has shown incredible focus and confidence with multiplication, tackling challenging problems with resilience and determination! Awesome work, Olivia!

Grade 5/6 Fry

Braxton M - Brax has settled into our grade beautifully. He shows a positive attitude in the classroom, is always willing to give things a go and shows a willingness to challenge himself. We are so proud of the way he has embraced our 5/6 grade. Well done, Brax!

Grade 5/6 Burton

Scarlet P - Scarlet has been working super hard in Maths this week. She has shown great focus and persistence when learning multiplication strategies and her hard work is paying off. Keep up the great effort, Scarlet!

Wellbeing

Helping children with anxiety using the stepladder approach

This week's article continues looking at strategies that we can use to support children in managing their anxiety. The following article explores the strategy of "laddering", which was briefly discussed last week.

This article can be found at www.raisingchildren.net.au

What is the stepladder approach for anxiety?

The stepladder approach is a step-by-step way of helping children and teenagers learn to handle anxious situations.

It works like this:

Start with a situation or thing that causes your child the least anxiety. Sometimes your child might need to practise the situation a few times until they feel comfortable with it.

Move on to another situation that makes your child feel a bit more anxious. Again, go through it a few times until your child can handle it. Practice is important.

Work with your child on tackling situations that gradually get more challenging. Older children can choose these situations themselves.

Why and how the stepladder approach works

The stepladder approach works because children and teenagers:

get used to facing the situations that make them anxious, which is better than avoiding them

create new, safe memories of situations, which become stronger the more your child practises

face their fears and find out that they might not be so bad after all

use and practise the coping skills and techniques that they're developing

get a strong sense of achievement as they progress 'up' the stepladder.

Tips for using the stepladder approach

When using the stepladder approach for anxiety, these tips can help your child get started and keep progressing through the steps:

Talk with your child about how you're going to help them with their stepladder. Younger children might need you to choose stepladders for them. Older child and teenagers might want independence in choosing and working through stepladders of their choice.

Turn the stepladder into a game for younger children. For example, if your child is afraid of eye contact, make a game where your child has to find 3 people with brown eyes at preschool.

Help your child to come up with positive self-talk they can use in anxious situations. For example, 'I can be brave', 'This is a friendly dog' or 'Mum will come back'. This works well for children aged 3-6 years.

Encourage your child to think realistically in anxious situations. For example, your child could ask themselves, 'What happened last time?' or 'How likely is it to happen?' This works well for children aged 7 years and older.

Talk together after your child attempts or completes a step. You could talk about how it went and what your child could do next time.

Use rewards when your child tries or completes a step on the ladder. Rewards could be an extra book at bedtime, a trip to the park or a later weekend bedtime. Make sure rewards match the difficulty of the steps and your child's age.

Give your child plenty of praise for achieving each step on the ladder.

You can use the stepladder approach with children of all ages. If you're unsure about how to do this, consider talking to a professional – perhaps a child and family health nurse, GP, psychologist or school counsellor.

Children learn how to cope with difficult situations by watching their role models and listening to what those people say. So, think about how you act and what you say in situations that you find stressful. For example, if you see a spider, you might calmly say, 'It's a spider. What do you know about spiders? Do you know how to spot one that might be dangerous?'

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 20 March 2026

Join in the fun on National Ride2School Day by encouraging your students to ride, walk, skate or scoot to school.

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity for students and school communities across Australia to embrace a healthier start and to try riding and walking to school for themselves.

Check out some of our ideas on how to plan the best National Ride2School Day ever!

Obstacle course

Set up a bike obstacle course on your basketball court or oval so students can get full use of their wheels before school starts.



Bike education

Integrate bike education and bike skills into the day (or even better - into the curriculum)!

Guest speakers

Arrange an assembly with a special guest speaker (e.g. Member of Parliament, local police officers or local riding super-stars) to inspire students to actively travel to school more often.

Healthy breakfast

Host a healthy breakfast with some tasty fruit and breakfast snacks.



Fundraising

Take the opportunity to raise funds by encouraging students to dress up (or dress up their bikes) and ask for a gold coin donation on the day. The proceeds can go towards improving the bike parking facilities at your school.



Bike parade

Host a 'decorate your bike' or 'decorate your helmet' competition and have students parade their creations at assembly.

Poster decorating

Use the colouring-in version of our poster and have students colour their own posters to put up around the school.



Active travel raffle

Hand out raffle tickets to the walkers and wheelers as they arrive at school and present a prize at the assembly.

HandsUp! count

Collect a HandsUp! count by asking your students how they travelled to school. You can use this to work out how much CO2 your school has saved by actively travelling.

We'd love to share in your celebrations and see how much fun your school had on National Ride2School Day, share your photos with us on Facebook or at ride2school@bicyclenetwork.com.au

ride2school.com.au
[#ride2schoolday](https://www.facebook.com/ride2schoolday)
[@bicycle_network](https://www.facebook.com/bicycle_network)



Lunchboxes

\$12 regular \$16 large

All lunches are nut free.
Other dietary requirements upon request

Monday 23rd

Option A

- Egg, lettuce and mayo wrap
- Chocolate cake with m&m's
- Fruit salad
- Cheese rice crackers
- Blue berry yoghurt with toasted coconut and oats

Option B

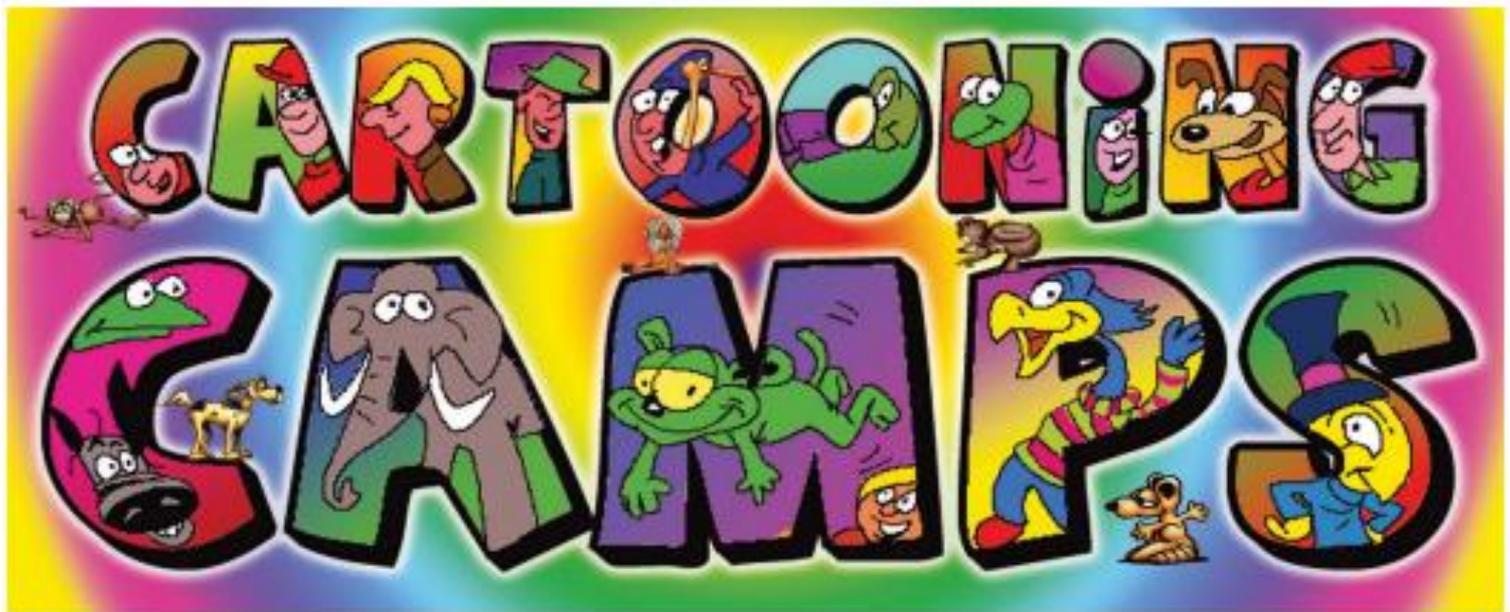
- Chicken nuggets with tomato or bbq sauce
- Red and Green grapes
- Choc drizzled honey joy slice
- Pretzels and mini marshmallows
- Orange slices

To place an order, or to go on the weekly mailing list,
message me on:

Facebook @ Zeds kitchen or text 0402626253

Payment via bank transfer

2026 Victorian Weekend



● Geelong ● Bendigo ● Ballarat ● Bacchus Marsh-Melton ● Melbourne



Saturday: 10am - 2pm / 2pm - 6pm / 6pm - 9pm Sunday: 10am - 2pm

\$29 per class

www.illustrating-man.com.au

EARLY BIRD

Book all 4 classes & receive 4 cartooning books & an art-set



Early Bird: Value at \$55

Enquiries: 8-30am - 4.30pm (EST)

Calls outside of these hours will be returned the following day

(02) 9343 0833

bookings@cartoonkingdom.com.au

www.illustrating-man.com.au

Offices: Suite 2, 29 Newland Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Geelong

Saturday February 28th - Sunday March 1st
33b Myers Street, Geelong

Bendigo

Saturday March 7th - Sunday March 8th
47 Simpsons Road, Eaglehawk

Ballarat

Saturday March 14th - Sunday March 15th
684 Hurstfray Street South, Golden Point

Bacchus Marsh - Melton

Saturday March 28th - Sunday March 29th
88 Writick Street, Darley

Melbourne 5 Day Program

Monday April 13th - Friday April 17th
1a Birch Street, Caulfield South

BOOKINGS

- Go to: www.illustrating-man.com.au
- Click the **Cartoon Workshop** button on the home page
- Select: **Your location**
- All art materials included
- Working with Children Checks
- A professional cartoonist will be teaching
- Juniors: 4 - 7 Intermediates: 8 - 10 Seniors: 11 - 15
- **Early Bird:** Book all 4 classes before Friday February 27th to receive the books & art-set

The Sydney Cartoon Camps have come back to Victoria Weekend Art & Cartoon Camps



Class 1: Saturday 10am - 2pm

Note: Children can bring their scooters on Saturday if they want to.

- **Theme:** Hawaiian. Wear anything colourful & tropical. Prizes for the best dressed.
- **Draw:** A tropical island.
- **Draw:** A frog, snake & a turtle.
- **Play:** The exciting game 'Charge'.
- **Coral reef:** Draw life in the sea.
- **Draw:** Animated fruit & vegetables.
- **Competition:** Design a candy packet. Win USA candy!
- **Kids in the kitchen:** Make mocktails & decorate doughnuts.
- **Science show:** With the mad Professor!
- **Balloon squishies:** Play the squishy game.
- **Face painting:** Get your face painted.
- **Make:** A tower with marshmallows & spaghetti.
- **Competition:** Design & win a real watch.



Class 2: Saturday 2pm - 6pm

- **Theme:** Messy clothes & hair. Prizes for the 'worst' dressed.
- **Kids on wheels:** Bring your scooters.
- **Play:** The 'Hit n Miss' Jelly game.
- **Draw:** Aussie animals.
- **Draw:** A dragon.
- **Make:** Clay food.
- **Enjoy:** Skittle S'mores.
- **Treasure hunt:** Find the treasure in the park.
- **Slime:** Make fun green gooey oobleck slime!
- **Play:** The shaving cream battle if you want to!
- **Draw African animals:** A giraffe, meerkat & an elephant.
- **Play:** Harry Potter™, Pokémon™ & Star Wars™ trivia for prizes.
- **Pokémon™:** Draw popular characters & trade your cards. Bring your Pokémon cards.



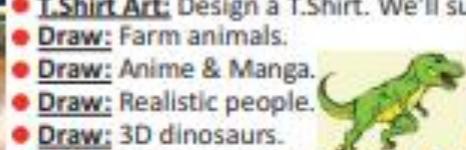
Class 3: Saturday night 6pm - 9pm

- **Theme:** Dress in dark clothes for murder in the dark.
- **Oreo™ Challenge:** Guess the flavour while blind folded.
- **Play:** Sock wrestling 'Nerf gun' style.
- **Play:** The custard eating game.
- **Draw:** Cute manga animals.
- **Draw:** Mario™, Minecraft™, Sonic™ & Yoshi™.
- **Play:** The Indiana Jones™ adventure game.
- **Nerf gun battle disco:** Bring in your nerf guns & goggles for a safe battle & disco. Make cubby houses in the hall.
- **Play:** Murder in the dark! An exciting game with balloons.



Class 4: Sunday 10am - 2pm Market Day - best class!

- **Theme:** Computer Games. Prizes for the best gaming costumes.
- **T-Shirt Art:** Design a T-Shirt. We'll supply the T-Shirts.
- **Draw:** Farm animals.
- **Draw:** Anime & Manga.
- **Draw:** Realistic people.
- **Draw:** 3D dinosaurs.
- **Flour battle:** Join in the fun flour fight if you want to.
- **Enjoy:** Japanese flavoured Pocky™ sticks.
- **Waterfight:** Weather permitting. Bring a watergun.
- **Kingdom Markets:** Everyone makes a shop for Market Day. Sell cookies, old toys, books... the children use Kingdom money they have earned. We'll give the children \$100 CK dollars.
- **Talent Show:** Perform if you want to. Singing, dancing, gymnastics, comedy, acting, etc...prizes for best acts.



HUNTLY FAMILY FUN DAY



Proudly sponsored by Agnico Eagle Fosterville

**FREE
ENTRY**

**SUNDAY
FEB 15, 2026**

**10AM
TO 1PM**

STRAUCH RESERVE, 14 GUNGURRU ROAD, HUNTLY

FREE ACTIVITIES:

CHAIR-O-PLANE ACTIVITY ♥ INFLATABLE WATER SLIDE
WATER FUN WITH HUNTLY CFA ♥ AIRBRUSH TATTOOS
SPORTING ACTIVITIES ♥ ANIMAL DISPLAYS ♥ ART AND CRAFT
FREE GIVEAWAYS! ♥ FACE PAINTING ♥ RENEGADES VAN INFLATABLES

FOOD/DRINKS:

BBQ (MEAT AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS) AND DRINKS – ALL \$2.50 EACH
FREE FRESH FRUIT ♥ COLIBAN WATER
REFILL UNIT (BYO DRINK BOTTLE)

Child-safe event. Smoke and vape free event.
Parking available around sporting ground.

*Don't forget
a towel!*

*Limited shade - bring
along your hat and chair.*



FOOTY FUN
**JUST
FOR
GIRLS**



GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

BENDIGO ALL GIRLS TERM 1 AUSKICK

Thursdays 4:00pm starting 19th February at Ewing Park Oval

**Girls aged 5-12 years old
\$55 per person (includes a football!)**



AFL

PLAY



Hop on board and join the Roos in 2026!!!

New Junior Player Expressions of Interest Now Open

Are you interested in playing junior football at Kangaroo Flat? We want you!!!
If you are considering playing junior football next season, we would love to welcome you and your family to the Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club.

Why Kangaroo Flat?

- We are a fun, inclusive, family friendly club
- We offer junior boys, girls & mixed football programs including in season social activities
- We have passionate, dedicated accredited coaches focused on the progressive development of players as individuals and their teams
- We provide a pathway into the Bendigo Football Netball League, the premier competition within the Greater Bendigo region
- We are located in the magnificent Dower Park facility in Station Street Kangaroo Flat, just a short 5-minute walk from the bus interchange @ Crusoe College

2026 Age Groups

(Date of Birth Requirements)

Under 9 Mixed

Born 2017, 2018 or before 30 April 2019

Under 10 Mixed

Born 2016 or 2017

Under 12 Girls or Mixed

Born 2014, 2015 or 2016

Under 14 Boys

Born 2012, 2013 or 2014

Under 15 Girls

Born 2011, 2012 or 2013

Under 16 Boys

Born 2010, 2011 or 2012

Please email enquiries to: kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au



<https://www.facebook.com/KangarooFlatJuniorFC>

