Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 27th November 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday 27th November	No Pre-Prep Prep Transition morning 11:30am – 1pm JSC – Crazy Hair Day
Friday 28th November	Hosting visiting students for a music morning with Rod Chocolate Money Due
Tuesday 2nd December	Celebration of Wonderful Women – Everyone Invited
Thursday 4th December	Concert Rehearsal at the Hall – from 8.45am to 3.30pm
Friday 5th December-	End of year concert at the Strathewen Hall – 7pm Start Supper at the end of the concert, supplied by families, with tea and coffee.
Tuesday 9th December	Year 7 Orientation Day
Wednesday 10th December	School Council – last meeting 2025
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Excursion – Greensborough Movies – 9.30am KFC Carpark
Tuesday 16th December	Grade 6 Big Night Out.
Thursday 18th December	Last Student Day – Kris Kringle
Friday 19th December	Student Free Day

We acknowledge the traditional Owners of the land on which we stand and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.
We honour and respect the histories, cultures, knowledge and perspectives of First Nations peoples
We value the guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we support and create opportunities for the future custodians- the children
Let us always remember that First Nation children played, danced, sang and learned on this place they called home

We've had plenty going on here at school this week.

Today, we've had Nancye in the P-2 room, catching up with our junior students and hearing them read. Diane was chauffeured here to school for another catch up with everyone and she spent her time reviewing assessments and working on further program planning to keep everything rolling along smoothly.

This week, our 2025 Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership Program came to an end and we enjoyed team project presentations, some more great learning and a bit of a celebration. We are incredibly fortunate to have developed an amazing working relationship with our local CFA volunteers. With so many different areas of expertise, they volunteer their time to ensure that our students have the most incredible learning opportunities. For the past ten years, our grade 5-6 students have had the benefit of learning about disaster preparedness, communication and leadership, challenges within our local environment, mapping, geography and topography, vegetation types, the science of fire, how the fire danger rating is determined and what it means, how to live safely where we do and so much more. Developing this program with Lisal and seeing the positive impact it has had on our young people over the last ten years, has without doubt been something I'm most proud of. Huge thanks to Lisal, Darren, Sue and the many, many experts and helpers we've worked closely with again this year. What an amazing team of volunteers.

Our gardeners were at school over the weekend, so the spring grass has been cut back, making things safer during the warmer weather. The grounds are looking great, with the recent rainfall. Deb was here on Saturday, shovelling gravel washaway to clear the asphalt, so that the line marking team could spruce up our carpark lines. It looks great. We have a team on site at the moment, working to dismantle the 'village' cubby, down in the bottom corner of the grounds, near the sports court. The cubby will be refurbished and relocated to Cubbyland, allowing for greater use. Both the site of the old village and the new cubby construction site are out of bounds for safety reasons at the moment.

Students have worked on decorating their 'bauble' canvasses as part of the Light Up Kinglake community event, run by the local CWA. When I dropped the finished work off to the team of volunteers last night, they were assembling the five-metre-high Christmas tree in the parkland adjacent to the Kinglake police station and the student contributions from across the local schools will be displayed as part of the festivities. The lights go on at the community event for families on Saturday evening (7pm-9pm November 29th), so if you have a free evening, everyone is welcome to join in the fun. There will be a BBQ, Santa will visit, there will be music and more. It's a free event but bookings are required. To book go to 'Light up Kinglake' online and register through the trybooking link.

We're finalising plans for of our Celebration of Wonderful Women on Tuesday next week. It would be great to have a keen audience joining us to hear from our list of speakers… and the catering for visitors will be pretty good! We have a range of wonderful women joining us once again. You'll have the chance to hear from women who are many things, have many skills and wear many hats. We have a park ranger, a farmer, a wildlife carer, a botanist, a public prosecutor and a woman who has worked tirelessly in supporting hearing impaired children. Our students will be performing some great music to entertain our guests as well. The action will begin downstairs in our multi-purpose room from just before 10am and we'll finish off with afternoon tea from 3 to 3.30pm.

Jane

Jude for writing more than usual in his journal.

Alana for persevering with tricky maths

Quinn for great work on Snake project presentation.

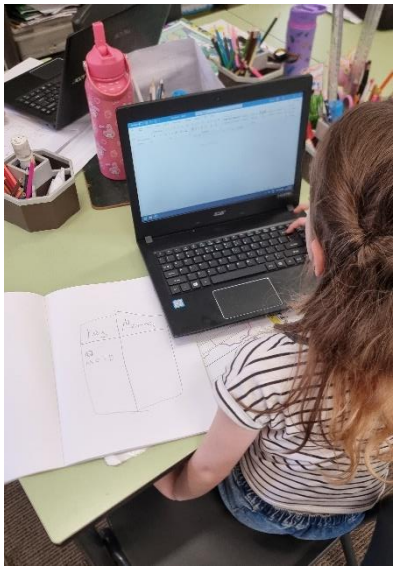
Vivi for her fantastic approach to learning new things.

Do you have any spare 5c coins hanging around? We'd love you to add them to our silver coin tube collection in the hallway, so that we can plan a special challenge this term.

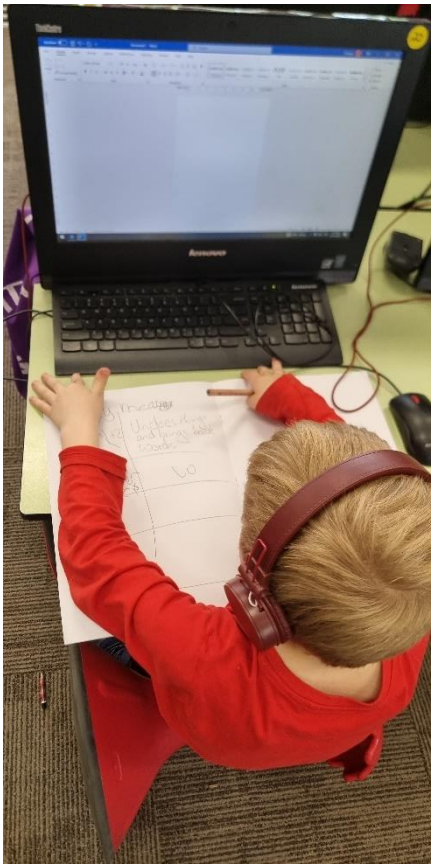
JSC Crazy Hair Day

Thursday 27th November 2025

Gold Coin Donation



This week we explored problem solving in S.T.E.M. In the junior grades we framed this around Microsoft Word and navigating around the program. In Prep this meant learning to use some basic skills such as ENTER and SHIFT and in Grade 1 - 2 we explored other buttons and practiced testing them purposefully to develop a cheat sheet. In the senior grades we explored the use of Google Docs to develop shared documents to go through a problem solving challenge exercise where we had to make decision based on a survival scenario. We also learned about using headings to format and create clear, concise documents.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Yesterday, we all gathered up for the presentation of our CFA information videos and posters to the rest of the senior grade. We gave honest opinions about them. After we reviewed all the posters and videos made this year, we headed over the road to the CFA station, to learn how to use a fire extinguisher. After a lesson with Darren, we all had to demonstrate how to use them, so everyone would know what to do in case of a fire. What you do is, you twist off the little tag., then pull out the pin and do a little squirt to make sure the extinguisher is ready to go, then you aim the nozzle at the base of the fire and SQUIRT!

After that, we learnt how to use the fire blankets, in a kitchen fire scenario. Just like the fire extinguisher session, we all demonstrated how to use the blanket, by grabbing the two tabs and pulling them, holding the tabs to make sure your hands are protected by the blanket and holding the blanket up high, also protecting your face from the heat. You move towards the fire and drop the blanket over it, patting it down to smother the fire. We all remembered to turn off the fake stove!

We finished with a special morning tea with Lisal, Sue and Darren to finish off our year of Bushfire Education. It has been a fantastic program for us.

Kayden and Van

Strathewen Community Bushfire Safety Information Session

To give your home the best chance of surviving:

- Seal gaps around and under your house and look for ways embers might get into your roof
- Remove vegetation, organic mulch and timber from against your house
- Make sure your gas cylinders are secured and the pressure relief valve is pointing away from the house and other flammable material
- Remove unnecessary combustible material from decks and verandahs

To better understand and manage the bushfire risk to your property, go to this excellent webinar produced by Bushfire Resilience Inc.
https://bushfireresilience.org.au/webinar-recordings/2024-webinar-3/

BUSHFIRE SAFETY SESSIONS
STRATHEWEN COMMUNITY

TWO SESSIONS (ONLY ATTEND ONE)
7:30PM | TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2025 OR
7:30PM | THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025

LOCATION: PETER AVOLA MEMORIAL PAVILION
CHADDS CREEK ROAD

Recent rains have been fantastic for our gardens and good for the paddocks, however they have made very little difference to the increasing risk of bushfires this year and possibly into the next few years. Rainfall over the past 2 years has been very much below average. This has resulted in very low soil moisture levels which makes forests and bushland much more likely to carry significant bushfires into our area.

While the current drought is not as bad as the years that led to Black Saturday, it would be wise for all Strathewen households to prepare themselves for bushfire.

To help you understand bushfires and what you can do to prepare, Strathewen Landcare Group in partnership with Arthurs Creek and Strathewen Fire Brigade, will be presenting Household Bushfire Safety evenings on Tuesday 2nd December and repeated again on Thursday 4th December to ensure that as many households can attend as possible.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- What is the Bushfire Risk to Strathewen
- How are houses at risk from bushfire
- How are people and animals at risk from bushfire
- How do we know what a 'bad bushfire day' is
- What are the options for safety during a bushfire event in Strathewen
- What might a household Bushfire Safety Plan look like

This event will be presented by local people who have extensive knowledge and experience in bushfire preparedness.

Malcolm Hackett - Chair of Bushfire Resilience Inc

Steve Pascoe - Community Bushfire Safety Educator

Lisal O'Brien - Captain, Arthurs Creek / Strathewen Fire Brigade

Darren Bradshaw - Community Safety Officer, Arthurs Creek/Strathewen Fire Brigade.

Both Lisal and Darren have led the brilliant bushfire education program at Strathewen Primary School and are dedicated to improving community safety.

Behind the Scenes:

- Ghislain from Consultant, Health and Safety Consulting for our OHS Audit came and spent Friday working through tasks to be completed and implement recommendations.
- Jake from Fire Plumb came and did their monthly fire pump inspection/service.
- Darren and Daz dismantled the old cubby house behind the tennis court and are relocating it to the cubbyland on the hill

CHILD SAFE: *Strathewen Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families. We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students. We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our environments. Child safety is a shared responsibility.*

Child safety and wellbeing at Strathewen Primary School: information for families and the school community

Strathewen Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website: http://strathewenps.vic.edu.au/

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective.

Our students and families are important partners in this process. We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Jane Hayward, our school principal on 9714 8278.

STRATHEWEN LANDCARE MEMBERS ONLY

Log Splitter available for hire!
Borrowing donation: $20
Pick up Strathewen
Questions and bookings can be made via emailing enquiries@strathewenlandcare.org.au

👉Not a member - Join NOW!! by clicking on the following link - https://www.nillumbiklandcare.org/strathmember

Christmas in Kinglake

Let's light up the town

Saturday
November 29
7 pm
at Kinglake Library

* Family fun and BBQ
* Xmas Music
* Hampers
* Raffles ... and more

CFA Santa will visit for children

www.trybooking.com/DFSUY

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW (LIMITED NUMBERS)

A Kinglake CWA Project with
special thanks to Bendigo Bank, Murrindindi Council,
local community volunteers and businesses

ELTHAM Wildcats

Eltham Wildcats Neurodiverse Friendly Basketball Clinic (5-10 year olds)

To help celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, the Eltham Wildcats are excited to be hosting a **FREE** clinic for **5-10 year olds** who are looking to participate in a neurodiverse supportive environment. Players who identify as neurodiverse, or as an interested neurotypical partner are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of basketball. Following the on-court session, we will also host an afternoon tea for the players.

Clinic Details

💰**Cost:** FREE

Who: 5-10 Years Olds (Neurodiverse and Neurotypical partners)

📅**Date**: Sunday the 30th of November

⏱**Time:** 2:00pm-3:00pm on court 3:00pm-3:30pm afternoon tea.

📍**Location**: Montmorency Secondary College: 27 Simms Road Montmorency. (Courts 1-3)

If you'd like to be part of this event, please click on the registration link below! 👇

https://www.cognitoforms.com/ElthamWildcats/ElthamWildcatsNeurodiverseFriendlyBasketballClinic

MERNDA

10th March 2026

Certificate III in

School Based Education Support CHC30221

Embark on a flexible and rewarding career where you can make a meaningful impact on the lives of children with additional needs.

prace

www.prace.vic.edu.au

Certificate III in School Based Education Support CHC30221

Education Support is a flexible and rewarding career where you can work in the classroom to support students with additional needs.

Prace delivers an industry driven and dynamic learning experience to ensure you are job-ready with the skills employers are looking for. With the guidance of expert teachers in a friendly and supportive classroom, you will develop the skills to:

- Support students with additional needs
- Support literacy and numeracy skills
- Contribute to planning educational programs
- Support the health, wellbeing and safety of students

You will participate in excursions, workshops and gain insights from industry guest speakers.

Pathways
Graduates are in demand and work in a range of educational settings, including primary and secondary schools and schools for children with additional needs. Graduates work as education assistants, teacher's aides and support workers.

Entry requirements
Aged 18 years and over. Moderate computer, email and internet skills. Plus digital technology access. English LLN skills at an industry entry standard.

How to enrol
Call 9462 6077 to arrange a pre-enrolment interview.

Nationally Recognised Training | Learn Local

Location
Mernda Social Support Centre located at:
Mernda Village Community Centre
70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda

Dates and duration-TBC
10 Mar 2026 - 20 Oct 2026
(Includes a workshop on Friday, 16 Oct 2026)
26 Sessions
2 Workshops
100-hour placement

Days and times
Tuesdays
9.15am - 3.15pm
(Classes will not run on public or school holidays)

Study Mode
Face-to-face in a classroom, self-directed offsite tasks and research, remote teacher support sessions, practical placement and industry/ assessment workshops

Fees
Gov. subsidised:
Concession $90
Full $450
Non-subsidised $5850
^Special consideration may apply
Plus $10 Service & Amenities fee

Course commencement is subject to variation, sufficient enrolments and eligibility requirements. Prace encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in our programs and activities.

This training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth

prace
Prace - Main Office
Merrilands Community Centre - 35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir
Phone 9462 6077 | office@prace.vic.edu.au | www.prace.vic.edu.au
(Prace Inc. No. A0032713Z TOID 4036 ABN 93 736 262 050)