Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 4th December 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday 2nd December	Celebration of Wonderful Women – Everyone Invited
Thursday 4th December	Concert Rehearsal at the Hall – from 8.45am to 3.30pm Pre-Prep – 9am – 11.30am No Prep Transition.
Friday 5th December-	Concert Rehearsal at the hall from 8.45am – 2.30pm **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 – 4.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Excursion – Greensborough Movies – 9.30am KFC Carpark
Tuesday 16th December	Grade 6 Big Night Out.
Thursday 18th December	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS – 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

Concert Preparation and Plans for the next two days

Tomorrow, we'll be at the Strathewen Hall for the day, rehearsing for Friday evening's concert.
Morning drop off at the hall is from 8.45am. Students will need a hat, their lunch, brainfood, snacks and drink bottle. No hot lunches available.
Pick up tomorrow is at the end of the school day- 3.30pm, from the hall.
Friday- again, we're at the hall all day, morning drop off from 8.45am.
Early dismissal is at 2.30pm, to allow everyone to go home, have dinner, a break and be back at the hall **from** 6.30pm (please do not arrive before this time) for a 7pm show.
Friday Night- Supper- each family is asked to contribute a plate of food for the community table after the concert. Tea and coffee will be available.
Special wrapped and named items from home for your little people, to be distributed by our guest at the end of the concert, can be dropped off to the hall kitchen area on Thursday or Friday.
If you have any questions, please check with a staff member.

Welcome back Mrs Phillips! We were delighted to welcome Diane back to school this week. After surgical complications and a longer than expected recovery, she was certainly keen to be back on deck. We're attempting to have her on modified duties and continue to have an additional teacher in the junior room at present.

It's almost time for our end of year concert. Our budding actors are finalising the mastery of their lines and working on voice projection, final rehearsals are taking place and the excitement is building. Huge thanks to Darren and Deb Bradshaw, who, with the assistance of Kayden, Louie, Quinn and Van, managed to transport the largest items of musical equipment and some props down to the Strathewen Hall today. It's always a big job to get everything there and back. Thanks to Bianca, who has been painting the backdrop for our production and to Deb, who has once again managed to fit everyone with costumes, take head shots for our program and actually put the program together. Concert night is always a big team effort.

Tomorrow, we'll be meeting students at the hall from 8.45am, for a busy day of action. We're preparing for a full dress rehearsal, which is always great fun (and a chance to iron out any glitches in the running order). It's a full school day at the hall tomorrow, with end of day pick up at the usual 3.30pm. On Friday, we'll meet at the hall again from 8.45am, and we have the earlier pick up time of 2.30pm, allowing everyone to get home, have a rest and some dinner and be back at the hall at 6.30pm to prepare for the show. Please do not arrive at the hall before 6.30pm.

Just a reminder to bring along a plate of food to share as part of the community supper after the concert. We'll be joined by a special visitor in red at the end of the night. Wrapped and labelled gifts can be left at the office and will be transported to the hall on Friday.

Yesterday's Celebration of Wonderful Women event saw us joined by five great presenters, all with different stories to share. Roz Keenan, our first speaker, shared her experiences in raising a profoundly deaf daughter and told us about her incredible work in promoting deafness awareness and implementing changes in support access, diagnosis and policy. She was fascinating to listen to. Our second speaker was Erin Phillips (Di's daughter and one of my past prep students), who spoke about growing up locally and her journey studying and working in law, and her current role in the DPP. Kim Hunter, Kinglake Ranger, and Lorraine Casey, presented as a dynamic duo, sharing tales of their work in rescuing and caring for our native birds and animals. The video clip of Kim calling the koala down from the trees in the Kinglake National Park was amazing. Our final speaker was Nina Lunde, who spoke about growing up in Norway, her school life, coming to Australia and life as a berry farmer. What a wonderful collection of women we enjoyed hearing from. Performances by our school musicians provided some additional entertainment and just before the shared afternoon tea, we finished off with some singing, thanks to Rod, who led the way. Thank you to Deb, who managed the catering side of things yesterday. Our Celebration of Wonderful Women is supported through a successful grant application to Nillumbik Shire, as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

The relocation of the Village cubby to Cubbyland continues this week, thanks to Darren and Daz. This will add another 'dwelling' to the hillside and work will see the cubby repaired as part of the process.

This week, we drew the Kris Kringle names out and everyone has someone to buy for. This is always a bit of excitement on our last day with students. If you have any questions, please speak to a staff member.

See you all at the concert

Jane

Congratulations to Arthur, Matilda and Aiki for finishing their Time and Wednesday Workbooks. Well Done.

Iyla for her wonderful sentence writing.

Brin for focusing well and completing her work without distraction.

Matilda for her detailed 'Where's Wally' art work.

Louie for his editing during the CFA Program and his help moving instruments to the hall this morning.

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.

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:

- Darren, Van, Louie, Quinn, Kayden & Jacob helped move the music instruments to the hall for the school concert
- Bianca, Chase and Van have worked amazingly on the back drop for our annual concert.

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
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