

# Newsletter

Principal: Shane West  
School Council President: Nial Muecke

Ph: 5428 2232



Dear Parents & Guardians

## Tuesday's Weather Event

A massive thank you to all of our staff who had to cope with the disruption to classrooms and programs during the torrential downpour. A special shout out to a shoeless Mrs Boyd and her team of Kylies, Renee, Mr Bell, Mr Dwyer, Mrs Morris and Mrs Brennan who prevented our classrooms from flooding until the SES arrived.

## Year 1/2 Swimming Program

Thank you to staff and parent volunteers who are making this program so successful. Just a reminder please make sure you have a current working with children card, have nominated NGPS as the volunteer organisation and provided a copy of your WWCC to the school office. Please note an OH&S Induction will also need to be completed prior to volunteering.

## School Council Elections

Nominations for School Council opened on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

The self-nomination forms are available from the school office and need to be returned by 4.00pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It is a self-nominating process therefore you don't have to go out and lobby for people to nominate you. Please see the detailed notice regarding the elections in this newsletter for more information.

## Kitchen Garden

It was great to see many parents cooking and gardening last Friday. As mentioned previously for those parents who would like to help with Kitchen Garden and/or volunteer at the school, please make sure you have a current working with children card, have nominated NGPS as the volunteer organisation and provided a copy of your WWCC to the school office. Please note an OH&S Induction will also need to be completed prior to volunteering.

## Foundation Students

This week saw the last of the four day week for our Foundation students with full weeks starting next week. We hope you have cherished this extra time with your children and they have built up their stamina.

## Foundation Grandparent Afternoon

The Foundation Grandparents open afternoon is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 2:30pm - 3:10pm. We look forward to all of these significant adults joining us for the afternoon.

## Year 4 and Year 6 Camp

Planning is almost complete for the Year 4 and Year 6 camp. If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher.

Shane West  
Principal

# IMPORTANT DATES

## FEBRUARY

**23rd-6th Mar** Yr 1-2 Swimming Program (Gisborne Aquatic Centre)  
**27th** Foundation Grandparents Afternoon 2:30pm  
Kitchen Garden 4A & 4C

## MARCH

**2nd** Foundation Students Commence Fulltime  
**4th** Yr 3 CERES Excursion  
**5th** District Swimming Carnival-Select Students  
**6th** Parents Association Annual General Meeting 9am (Staffroom)  
Kitchen Garden 4B & 4A  
**9th** **Labour Day Public Holiday-Student Free**  
**11th-13th** Yr 6 Sovereign Hill Camp  
**12th-13th** Yr 4 Camp Wilkin  
**17th** Foundation Teddy Bears Picnic  
School Council Meeting & (AGM) 7pm  
**19th** Yr 3-6 Cross Country-Dixon Field

## April

**1st** JSC Fundraiser-PJ Day  
Foundation Easter Concert  
**2nd** Whole School Performing Arts Competition (PAC)  
**Last Day of Term 1, 2:30pm Dismissal**

## 2026 Curriculum Days (Student Free)

Monday 25th May-Professional Practice Day  
Monday 2nd November-Curriculum Day  
Thursday 17th December-Curriculum Day  
Friday 18th December-Curriculum Day

# School Council Election Information

## Appendix A: Fact sheets

### Fact sheet 1: School council elections – information for parents

#### What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that set the broad direction of a school and provide oversight of school decisions and finances. Their roles are guided by rules and laws including Ministerial Order 1280 (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020, the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017* and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

#### Who is on the school council?

There are several possible categories of school council membership:

- **parent membership category** – members of this category must make up more than one third of the school council's total membership. A parent member can be any person who has parental responsibility for a student enrolled at the school.
- **school employee membership category** – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically a member of this category.
- **community membership category** – if a school council includes a community membership category, members are co-opted by a decision of the school council. The decision may be based on their special skills or to provide broader representation of diversity in the school community. Department of Education employees are not eligible to be community members on school council.
- **nominee membership category** – a small number of school councils have nominee members.
- **student membership category** – all schools with a Year 7 and above student cohort have a student membership category with 2 positions allocated, unless they have sought an exemption. Refer to **School Council Elections: Guidance**.

#### What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of election and call for nominations in term 1 of each year and let you know where you can get a nomination form.

You can nominate yourself in the parent membership category by filling in the nomination form.

Parent members are required to hold a valid Working with Children Clearance (WWCC) to nominate for a position on school council. The only exception to this requirement is parents who are also teachers and hold a current VIT registration.

If you work at your child's school, then you are not eligible to run in the parent membership category, but you can nominate for the school employee membership category.

If you work for the Department of Education somewhere other than your child's school, then you are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school. However, there is a limit to the number of department employees who can hold office in the parent membership category. Check with your school's principal.

You must return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a nomination form receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

#### How do I get a Working with Children Clearance, and does it cost money?

You can apply for a Working with Children Check (WWCC) through the **Services Victoria website**.

School council members are volunteers which means that applying for a WWCC is free.

When applying for a WWCC, parents must:

- nominate the Department of Education as the organisation they are working for when applying for a Working with Children Check
- provide evidence of their Working with Children Clearance as soon as practicable after receiving it (or via the school council nomination form).

# School Council Election Information

## What happens if there are more nominations than positions available?

If the number of nominations is greater than the positions available in any school council membership category, a ballot is required to elect members to school council. A ballot means a vote is held to determine which of the nominees are elected to school council.

Each parent/carer who is eligible to be on school council is given a ballot paper to vote. Ballot papers are only given to members of the specific membership category where the ballot is required.

For example, if a ballot is required to determine who will be elected to the parent membership category, each parent/carer of a child at the school are given a ballot paper and are able to vote.

## What happens if not enough parents nominate to fill the available parent membership positions?

All nominees will be declared elected to school council. For the remainder of the unfilled positions, the principal will call for a second round of nominations, for a 3 day period.

## What happens if the number of nominations equals the number of positions available?

The nominees are elected to school council and the election process concludes. For example, if 3 parents nominate and there are 3 parent positions available, all 3 parents who nominated are elected to and join school council.

## How long is the term of office?

Generally, the term of office for all council members is 2 years. The term of office of half the members in each category expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

## How often does school council meet?

School council is required to meet 8 times per year and at least once per term.

Meetings are held at the school, generally after school hours. School council members can also join meetings virtually.

If you would like to read more about what happens at a school council meeting, please refer to the **School Council – Meetings policy**.

## Why is parent membership so important?

Parent members on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills, experiences and knowledge, which help inform and shape the direction of the school.

## Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. Each school council member brings their own valuable skills, knowledge and life experience to the role. An interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future are the most important criteria.

To successfully perform their duties, school council members may need to gain some new skills and knowledge. Free school council training is available to all school council members. The training helps support school council members with their roles and responsibilities

## Code of conduct for school council members

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School council members must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires school council members to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other council members and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

# School Council Election Information

- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a school council member to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

## Indemnity for school council members

The Department of Education provides insurance to school council members. School council members are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith in the exercise of their powers and functions as a member of school council. For further information refer to the **School council – liability and legal proceedings policy**.

## How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. Ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

You might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

# Wellbeing



[This Photo](#) by Un-

## Wellbeing at NQPS Term 1 week 5

### At school

For the rest of the term, in our Respectful Relationships Program we will be focusing on the topic **Personal and Cultural Strengths**. This helps students to learn how to recognise and understand their own and others' strengths and positive qualities, and how to identify how the values and strengths they learn from their family and culture help them to treat others with respect.

### At home

Children and young people need a vocabulary to help them recognise and understand strengths and positive qualities in themselves and others. This topic provides learning activities to build this vocabulary and to use it when discussing personal, social and ethical challenges.

### At Home Activity

Encourage your child to talk to family members about their strengths and times when these strengths helped them in doing, achieving and/or saying something.

## Helpful resources for families

### Resilience

- Resilience is the ability to bounce back after challenges and tough times.
- Resilience develops when children experience challenges and learn to deal with them positively.
- Strong relationships are the foundation of children's resilience.
- Skills and helpful attitudes are important for resilience in children.

### Three ways to develop resilience

**Understanding and managing emotions** – for example, your child might be worried about a family member who's sick. You could say, 'I can see you're really worried about Grandpa. It's OK to be worried. But remember we're doing everything we can to help him get better'.

**Being persistent** – for example, encourage your child to have another go when things don't work out the first time they try something. Praise your child for trying, no matter the result. You could say, 'I'm proud of you for finishing the race' or 'Well done for giving it another go'.

**Solving problems** – for example, if a child at school says or does something unkind to your child, brainstorm how your child might respond next time. Helping your child to develop problem-solving skills is better than trying to solve every minor problem for them



Kerry Morris

Mental Health and  
Wellbeing Leader

**For further reading: Raising Children Network article:  
Building Resilience in Children 3-8**

# Chester Chatter

Meet mini-Chester! This play-dough masterpiece was created in the activities room and Chester agreed; the likeness is amazing.



Besides hanging out in the activities room, Chester has been down to the swimming pool to meet the team that runs the Gisborne Aquatic Centre. He has watched his Year One and Two friends showing great persistence, organisational skills and dedication as they've built their swimming





Tesselaar



&

NEW GISBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

## BULB FUNDRAISER

GET A GORGEOUS GARDEN THIS SPRING AND  
RAISE MONEY FOR THE LOCAL SCHOOL!

ORDERS COME STRAIGHT TO YOUR DOOR AND  
40% OF SALES GO TOWARDS THE SCHOOL

[www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/NEWGISBORNEPS](http://www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/NEWGISBORNEPS)

ORDERS CLOSE 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2026



# Parents' Association

**Our 'Parents' Association' needs you! And we'd love to have you involved!**

The Parents' Association is a group of committed volunteers supporting various activities, events and fundraising for the school community throughout the year.



Hi everyone, I am Rachel, I'm the current President of the Parents' Association. As a new parent at the school three years ago I knew very little about the school community or ways to get involved. I wanted to support my little preppy to have the best start and so threw myself into supporting the school through the PA and canteen. Since that time, I've had the privilege of being involved in bringing together some awesome fun events, fundraising and having a great laugh with my family and many new friends.

The PA have some fabulous flagship events and in recent years have really struggled to get volunteers to assist. If you can spare some time, we'd love to have your help!

Here's some of what you can look forward to over the coming year:

**Book Fair**— a great opportunity to introduce, encourage and support students of all ages to the world of reading by volunteering at the book fair. By selling of books, assisting students with book selection and helping the students out with their maths skills by finding the right coins to pay.

**School Disco** – One of the much-loved events for our students. As a parent volunteer as you get to supervise the students as they boogie the night away and eat all the sweets in sight! There's a variety of fun roles on the night from crowd control, face painters, or selling candy, this is a fun event for all involved.

We can't continue to provide these events without welcoming some new people into our fabulous association. Whether you have 1 hour to spare, or multiple hours, we welcome all skills to help support our school community!

**The next meeting will be held on March 6th in the staff room at 9am. This meeting will also include AGM and we'd love to see some new faces.** You can also connect online with the committee through our facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngpspamembersonly> or by emailing: [ngps.parentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ngps.parentsassociation@gmail.com) to find out more.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, the teachers and school community for the ongoing commitment and support.



# PE/Sport

## **School Sport Victoria (SSV) TEAM VIC TRIALS 2026**



### **Primary School Students (12 years and under)**

Registration for the TEAM VIC trials for 2026 are now open! Victorian students have the opportunity to register to try out for state-level representative teams in their chosen sports. It is important to note that these trials are part of School Sport Victoria's Gifted and Talented program and are not 'come and try' events. Each student will be trialling for a state team, so we must attest to their athleticism, skill level, and school behaviour. The expectation is that students are already playing at a representative level in their sport. Families are asked to carefully consider whether their child is ready for this level of competition, as limited involvement at trials may affect a student's confidence.

Some popular sports have a closing date of Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

### **School Endorsement & Registration Process**

Step 1: Parents must speak with the sports Coordinator before registering online. This allows us to discuss whether the trial is suitable for your child.

For the following sports, each school may endorse a maximum of three (3) students:

- 12 Years & Under Boys Australian Football
- 12 Years & Under Boys Basketball
- 12 Years & Under Girls Basketball
- 12 Years & Under Boys Football (Soccer)
- 12 Years & Under Girls Netball

Step 2: Once approved by the Principal/Sports Coordinator, a parent or guardian may complete the online registration.

Step 3: If more than three students are registered in any of the sports listed above, SSV will contact the school. Official endorsement will be completed via an online form sent after registrations close.

Step 4: After the State Trials, the Principal/Sports Coordinator will be asked to endorse any student selected for a Team Vic team. Teams will not be announced until this endorsement is received. Successful students will then receive further information about their selection.

Further details can be found via the SSV link : <https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic>

If you have any further queries, please contact Mrs Mason 😊

MT MACEDON & DISTRICT  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

## Autumn Flower & Produce Show

Sunday 15 March 2026  
Open 10am to 4pm

Tickets \$6 at the door (exhibitors free)  
Devonshire Tea available for purchase

Details on how to  
enter, show schedule  
and exhibitor classes  
available at



[www.mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au](http://www.mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au)

The Horticultural Hall, 583 Mt Macedon  
Road Mt Macedon VIC 3441

**Come play real tennis matches  
—and be part of the club!**



## MRTA WINTER COMP 2026

**Love tennis?**

Ready for real matches, new friends, and heaps of fun?

Come give junior competition tennis a go!

- ✓ Match play:
- ✓ Team spirit:
- ✓ Confidence & skills
- ✓ Loads of rallies!



Applications close: **1st March**

To apply or find out more:  
[info@macedontennisclub.co.au](mailto:info@macedontennisclub.co.au)

**Smash boredom.  
Play competition!**

**JUST FOR  
THE GIRLS**



## GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

### NEW GISBORNE ALL GIRLS AUSKICK GROUP

Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct, New Gisborne

FRIDAYS 4:30 - 5:30PM

Starts 1st May 2026



**ALL GIRLS  
GROUPS  
AVAILABLE**



## GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

### NEW GISBORNE AUSKICK CENTRE

Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct, New Gisborne

FRIDAYS 4:30 - 5:30PM

Starts 1st May 2026



# Community



## HOOK IN 2 HOCKEY

**MELTON HOCKEY CLUB**

FIRST SESSION IS FREE! ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED!

**WHEN:** Thursday's 26th Feb to 2nd April  
5:45pm-6:45pm (arrival time 5:30)

**WHERE:** 132 Bridge Road, Strathulloh  
(Behind the athletics track)



**CONTACT:** Kylie Brilliant  
kyliebrilliant@hotmail.com



**GISBORNE FNC & GISBORNE ROOKIES JFNC**

## GISBORNE FEMALE FOOTBALL

FOOTY FOR ALL AGES AND LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE



**ONE PATHWAY. ONE COMMUNITY.  
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES**

PLACES AVAILABLE FOR PLAYERS AGED 8 AND UP  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW FOR MORE INFO



**AMANDA CROOKS**  
0422 324 379



**DARREN MITCHELL**  
0412 335 554



**DON'T FORGET!**

# REGISTRATIONS

# ARE OPEN!

**POSSUMS 2026 WINTER SEASON**

[HTTPS://REGISTRATION.NETBALLCONNECT.COM/LOGIN](https://registration.netballconnect.com/login)

**REGISTER NOW!**

# Community

**Is your child turning 3 between May 2026 and April 2027?**

**Register for kindergarten by 31 May**  
To be included in first round offers for 2027

**We're accepting registrations for both 3-year-old and pre-pre kindergarten for:**

- Gumboots Gisborne
- Manna Gum Family and Children's Centre (Gisborne)
- Rothschild Road Kindergarten (at Willowbank Primary School)
- Swinburne Avenue Children's Centre (Gisborne)
- Kyneton Community House
- Kyneton Kindergarten
- Bug-a-Lugs (Kyneton)
- Embracia Childcare and Kindergarten (Kyneton)
- Lancefield Children's Centre
- Macedon Early Learning Centre
- Macedon Kindergarten
- Gumboots Riddells Creek
- Riddells Creek Kindergarten
- Romsey Kindergarten
- Woodend Kindergarten

**Access to a kindergarten place is easier than ever!**

**How to Register**  
Visit: [mrscvic.gov.au/kinder-regg](https://mrscvic.gov.au/kinder-regg) or scan the QR code.

**Contact us:** Kindergarten Enrolment Team on 03 5422 0239 or [kinderenrolment@mrscvic.gov.au](mailto:kinderenrolment@mrscvic.gov.au)






**The Young Voices of Macedon**

**Join us!** Choir for children aged 6 and up!

*For fun with new friends, to learn good singing technique, and to perform great songs at concerts & community events.*

**Thursdays 4.15 - 5.45 PM**  
247 Station St, New Gisborne  
[yvmaconedon.org.au](http://yvmaconedon.org.au)




## Guitar Lessons

Weekly ½ hour group lessons (3-5 students)

- \$210 per term
- During school hours
- For students in Grade 2 – 6



Scan here to complete enrollment online.

Questions/Queries Contact:  
Aaron Moar  
P: 0438 177 764  
E: [aaronmoar@infinitesound.com.au](mailto:aaronmoar@infinitesound.com.au)  
[www.infinitesound.com.au](http://www.infinitesound.com.au)

We recommend that beginners use a ¾ size nylon string guitar for home practice.



**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**Open Position:**  
Chief Exam Supervisor

- ✓ 2026 and beyond
- ✓ Must have WWCC that permits paid work



**Key skills needed:**

- Strong Organisation and Documentation Skills
- Strong Communication Skills
- Basic Computer Literacy



Send EOIs with a brief outline of experience to: →

Email Address:  
[katherine.smith2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:katherine.smith2@education.vic.gov.au)