



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 32

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**THURSDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

## CALENDAR

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**ORDERS DUE FOR CONCERT DVD'S / USB'S**

**Scholastic Book Club Orders due online and at the Office by 3:15pm**

Senior Unit Crusoe College Freaky Friday Excursion

**P&F Mango Drive Order Forms due on Compass / at the Office**

Swimming consent / payment due on Compass

Whole School Swimming commences

Whole School Swimming continues

**BENDIGO CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY - no school**

Whole School Swimming continues

Day for Daniel – wear red, gold coin donation

Whole School Swimming concludes (NO LUNCH ORDER FIRST STEPS)

**CURRICULUM DAY – WELLBEING APPROACHES**

MELBOURNE CUP FAMILY FUN DAY – ALL WELCOME (see back page)

2026 Year 6 Grad tops ordering closes (online only)

**CURRICULUM DAY – REPORT WRITING**

**Year 6 Graduation – more information to follow**

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

As Week 2 has flown past it has become evident that almost all our children are settled and back into the learning routine 😊. The weather is also improving, enabling us to reset to full outdoor assemblies and events in the fresh air. We do need the rain, but hopefully this falls outside the times we are getting our students out to enjoy the great outdoors.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

A reminder to our school council members that our October meeting is next Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, commencing at 7:00pm. Finance committee will meet just before at 6:30pm. Attendance can be in person or through the Webex link that takes members direct to my Webex Meeting Room. This will be shared when documents are emailed home by the end of this week.

### FREAKY FRIDAY PERFORMANCE

Our Senior Unit will head to Crusoe College next Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October for a performance of the classic FREAKY FRIDAY. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to visit our local secondary school to see the arts in action. I'm sure our Senior Unit will really enjoy the outing and hopefully it motivates some of our current students to take to the stage in future years at Crusoe College. Please ensure all permissions and payments are completed through Compass before Wednesday.

### DIVISION CRICKET

Next Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October we are sending a team of Year 5/6 students to represent our school at the Division Cricket tournament at Catherine McAuley College in Junortoun. Brett Strange and Roberta Mathers will be in attendance to supervise and coach the teams... and a great day is set to unfold. If your child has been lucky enough to be selected to participate, please attend to permissions etc on Compass once the teams are finalised.

### FOOD PANTRY FOR ALL FAMILIES, BRAIN FOOD, SNACKS

We have a stocked community pantry at school with Vegemite, Cheerios, honey, Weeties, SPC baked beans & spaghetti, Sirena tuna cups, long life milk, soup and more for ANY FAMILY wanting free items... particularly during those times of need.

Too embarrassed to drop in? No need to be, however if you are feeling like you can't drop in... ring the office and speak to one of the team (Erin, Janet, Dean, Chris, Ainsley or I) and we can discreetly put some things into a bag for you to send home.

If you ever forget to send your child with brain food or snacks... let us know... we have fruit, and also snacks like popcorn, fruit cups and milk boxes to support. No issue at all – just let us know 😊.

## **BREAKFAST BUFFET AND CLUB**

If you have been in the school grounds of a morning you may have noticed our BREAKFAST BUFFET in action (Monday – Thursday). Most days Dean, Chris or I will run a breaky buffet from the balcony alongside the Library and my office. Children can come to school and have fruit cups, fresh fruit, cereal with milk, popcorn and a milk box if they are hungry. Please don't be embarrassed if they come and eat even if they have had breakfast – many visitors love the social element of a second breakfast with their friends. On Fridays Clare puts on a more elaborate breakfast club on the steps of the Multipurpose Room – with lots of choices including toast for all children who want it before the start of the day.

## **NO HAT? NO PLAY!**

It's been great to see a huge uptake of students wearing a hat each day, keeping them safe when in the yard. May I remind all families that hats are to be our black broad-brimmed bucket hat... available from the Office for \$10. Caps and other hats are not permitted. Please endeavour to send your child to school in our black school hat... in line with our school uniform.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please check your child's attendance rate on Compass by visiting their page and clicking the attendance tab. If their attendance percentage is below 85%, you should work hard with your child to improve this in the coming weeks. School every day is important... with no days at home for anything other than being really unwell or for appointments. Ultimately, we should have children attending at 95% - so there's an aspirational target for you. I'm tracking absences so will be in touch with you if there is a concern around your child's rate of attendance. I do understand there are individual circumstances too where attendance is lower – however these situations should be known to the school and medical certificates in place where possible to account for such absences. Thanks for your support.

## **ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

A reminder to families that school arrivals should be between 8:45am and 9:00am. If arriving before 8:45am, please book into TheirCare to ensure your child is supervised by an adult. The school day commences at 8:45am and before this time children are not supervised. If riding or walking to school, please remind your child to leave home at a time that will have them arriving at school after 8:45am. It's also important to try and regularly be onsite before 9:00am to avoid your child missing valuable learning time or disrupting learning by arriving late regularly. At the conclusion of the day, children should be picked up on dismissal at 3:15pm and no later than 3:30pm. Teachers are off duty at 3:30pm and uncollected children then must wait in the Office and parents called. We appreciate parents ensuring pick up before 3:30pm therefore as teachers are involved in mandatory meetings after 3:30pm.

## **YEAR 5/6 COASTAL FOREST LODGE CAMP**

We had a terrific camp at COASTAL FOREST LODGE in Bellbrae (near Anglesea) last week with our Year 5/6's. The behaviour of our students was exemplary, with the camp emailing us afterwards to congratulate the school on such wonderful children... so if you are a parent of a child who attended... be proud 😊. Whilst the weather was extremely windy and wet in patches, we managed to do all activities including the boogie-boarding in the Anglesea surf. Other highlights included building sandcastles and sculptures in the mouth of the Anglesea river, kayaking on the river in choppy conditions, completing an exciting low-ropes course, hut building in the coastal scrub, archery, mini-golf, a treasure hunt and a couple of adventurous night walks with lots of ring-tailed possums, despite the very excited voices echoing through the night 😊. A big thank you to Ainsley, Brett, Kate and Roberta for their organisation, and also to Amy and Rachel who attended. We had a great time together and wonderful memories were made 😊.

## **CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2026 – CLOSED**

Thank you to the families who took the time to put in their written request to consider when making placement of children into classes for 2026. This process has now closed, so if you missed out, rest assured that our staff will make the best decision for each child's placement anyway 😊. A reminder to those who did put in a request that they are of course "a request" – that will be considered... but not always able to be put in place. Thanks for your understanding.

## **STAFFING CHANGES**

We welcomed Jayden Sheean back to his class this week after spending the last 6+ weeks on paternity leave. The students in JJ were extremely excited at Jayden's return – I think they missed him 😊. A big thank you once again to Giovanna Totta, Jasmine and Jo Cordy for ensuring JJ had wonderful teachers in Jayden's absence.

## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors, for our beautiful selection of fruit 😊.  
Here is Rahm & Abigail with their pear and banana.



## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Mitchell G, Zoe B, Lleyton H, Tithorpi P, Abigail HF, Billy A, Allyera G, Willow S, Jake F, Harmony N, Franklin B & Ethan M.

With Week 2 almost complete it's a reminder to us all that time does pass quickly and before we know it, we will be facing the end of another year. As always, the message is to focus on now... have your child/ren at school every day because before we know it, the year will be complete.

Hope you have a wonderful Friday and a terrific weekend too. Until next week...

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FIRST STEPS NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For displaying the school value of 'Be Responsible' by quickly and quietly lining up when the bell rings:*

FSN **Huxley T**  
FSJ **Rahm S**

**Nicole, Nick & Jen**

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For displaying the School Value of 'Respect' in the classroom and in the playground:*

JJ **Harper A**  
JC **Mitchell G**

**Jayden & Catherine**

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing sportsmanship during our Afternoon Fitness:*

MED **Hudson B**  
MP **Emma P**  
MWA **Hannah G**

**Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda**

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For appreciation for the camp experience and the people who made it enjoyable:*

SA/R **Caleb H**  
SB **Mia Tr**  
SK **Harry R**

**Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate**

## 2026 YEAR 6 GRAD SHIRTS

Dear Families,  
It's that time of year when we begin organising for the year ahead.

Our current Year 5 students now have the opportunity to purchase their **Year 6 graduation shirts** for 2026.

As part of the process, students have voted on their preferred design, and we are excited to share that the shirts can now be **ordered and paid for online** through P&C Uniforms **ordering portal**.

All details, including sizing and ordering instructions, are provided in the **flyer attached**.

We strongly encourage families to consider purchasing **more than one shirt** where possible.

Prices may vary for any reorders placed next year, and having an extra shirt makes washing and daily wear much easier, especially as most students like to wear their graduation shirt every day.

Please note:

- **Orders close on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November,**
- **Sample sizes** are available to try on **before and after school**, please pop in and see **Kate** in the **Senior Office**,
- We recommend purchasing **at least one shirt in the next size up** to allow for growth,
- A **minimum order quantity** must be met for any future reorders, so getting your order in now is important.

Thank you for your support in helping our students celebrate their final year of primary school in style!

Regards

*The Senior Team*

## SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

### Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

#### Lost in the Digital Noise: Are We All Addicted?

It's not just our children who are being enticed down the digital rabbit hole. Whether you're a boomer scrolling through Facebook memes, a Gen X-er trying to keep up with TikTok trends, or a Millennial juggling emails, Instagram, and endless group chats, the constant ping of notifications has a way of sneaking into every corner of our lives.

Back in my day, distractions were a lot simpler. The telly, the radio, or a good old-fashioned game of footy down the park. Phones were bricks, the internet sounded like a robot choking over a dial-up modem, and if you missed the bus, well... you just missed it. Now, every app, website, and streaming service is designed to keep us glued to the screen, and the notifications never stop.

#### Older Generations: Just as Hooked

It's easy to point fingers at tweens and teens glued to their devices, but let's be honest, the older generations are just as caught up in the scroll. Boomers are checking Facebook groups, reading news updates, or watching clips of backyard barbie fails. Gen X-ers are juggling work emails, LinkedIn notifications, and the occasional viral TikTok they can't help but watch "just once." Even Millennials, the so-called "digital natives," are constantly pinged by apps, reminders, and social media, all while trying to manage kids, jobs, and daily life.

Research is showing that adults are spending hours online, often without realising it, and that constant connectivity can impact sleep, stress levels, and even social relationships. In some ways, it's no different to our kids: the pull of the screen is engineered to keep attention, and our brains respond in exactly the same way. The difference is, older generations tend to be juggling work and family responsibilities at the same time, so the digital noise isn't just a distraction, it's a pressure.

Kids notice this too. They see parents compulsively checking emails at dinner or doom-scrolling at night. The lessons in balance aren't just about limiting screen time, they're about showing kids how to use technology without letting it take over their life.

### Ways to Manage the Noise

- **Offline Family Time:** Schedule "tech-free" times like a Sunday morning walk to the servo for a coffee and a pie, or a family beach trip, no phones allowed,
- **Lead by Example:** Put your phone down at dinner, during family chats, or while catching up with mates. Showing moderation teaches kids more than rules ever will,
- **Talk About It:** Discuss your own digital habits and the pull of notifications, so kids understand it's normal but manageable,
- **Laugh About It:** Compare endless scrolling to a Saturday Bunnings queue or trying to snag the last sausage roll at the bakery, relatable humour helps everyone see the absurdity,
- **Set Boundaries Together:** Older kids can help establish family screen rules, which increases accountability for everyone, parents included.

### Generational Differences: But We're All in the Same Boat

The reality is, the lure of screens affects all of us, regardless of age. While children and teens may have grown up in a hyper-connected world, adults are just as vulnerable to doom-scrolling, endless notifications, and the "just one more" trap. Just the other night, I found myself having a quiet chuckle (and a not-so-quiet chat) with my husband about how he's slipped down that slippery digital slope. There he was, "just checking Facebook," when he was meant to be helping with dinner, only to disappear into a vortex of Facebook Reels featuring cooking hacks, dad jokes, and dogs wearing sunglasses. Sound familiar? We've all been there, one quick check turns into an hour-long scroll, and suddenly the jobs we were meant to do have packed up and gone home without us. Recognising it, and taking steps to manage it, isn't just good for the kids, it's good for us too.

### Final Thoughts

Technology is here to stay, and so are the challenges it brings. By modelling mindful use, keeping conversations open, and injecting a bit of humour, families can navigate the digital noise together. It's about enjoying the tech without letting it run the show, for both kids and adults, and maybe remembering what life was like before the pings, dings, and endless feeds.

*Safe travels on the internet highway, where your data's the passenger, and you're the navigator!*

*Kate*

## PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

### MANGO DRIVE

Please remember to still send in your paper order form if you are ordering on Compass, thank you. Orders are due by Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October. Spare order forms are available from the Office.

The trays are \$28 each for 7kg of mangoes.

*Thanks for your support*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Lael Stone is coming to Bendigo

### Creating cooperation and connection

parenting workshop

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025

@ 7.00pm-8.30pm, \$10/ticket

The Capital Theatre, Bendigo

Brought to you by



CatholicCare  
VICTORIA



Book your seat  
[boxoffice.gotix.com.au](https://boxoffice.gotix.com.au)



MENSWEAR WORKWEAR BIG MENS WOMENS & KIDS

OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup>

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INCLUDING  
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\*T&C's apply. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes mark downs & gift cards. No rainchecks! Discount applies to original prices, not markdown prices.

INSTORE & ONLINE SALE - OCT 15<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup>



# Day for Daniel

Join Australia's largest child safety education and awareness day.

Friday 31 October, 2025

WEAR RED educate DONATE



## It's all about keeping kids safe!

Register your school or early learning centre, or workplace today!

[DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au)

## IMPORTANT information on keeping kids safe

### RECOGNISE



"I feel yucky"

### REACT



"Run to find help"

### REPORT



"Tell someone"



Kids Helpline  
1800 55 1800  
Emergency  
000

### TALK

to the five grownups on your safety network until you get the **HELP** you need

Check out our FREE videos and resources at  
[DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au)

#DayForDaniel #KeepingKidsSafe #RecogniseReactReport





# SENIOR POLO ORDERING PORTAL NOW OPEN!

The cut-off date to order your senior polo is **16 November 2025** so be sure to get your order in on time.



PORTAL CODE: 1170



Scan to Shop Now!

## SIZE CHART

Unisex Fit

**YOUTH SIZES:** 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

½ CHEST (CM) 36 38 40 42 44 46 49 52

BODY LENGTH 46 48 50 52 57 60 63 71

**ADULT SIZES:** S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL 6XL

½ CHEST (CM) 54 56 58 60 62 64 66 68 70

BODY LENGTH 72.5 74.5 76.5 78.5 80.5 81.5 82.5 83.5 84.5

\*Garment Measurements

visit [www.readysetorder.com.au/sign-in/](http://www.readysetorder.com.au/sign-in/) to order today

**PORTAL CODE: 1170**

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WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM 

# Big Hill Primary School

## Mellourne Cup

### Family Fun Day

Tuesday, 4th November

All families are invited to come and join in the day of fun and festivities!



The morning program will begin at 9:10am and will include **Fashions on the Asphalt** and the **Hat Parades**. Parents are invited to **Morning Tea** which will be held in the Library at 10:30am.

After first break, at 11:00am, the **Long Distance Races** will be held for each year level.

These are optional competitive races.



From 11:45am there will be **Picnic Races** for all ages (including toddlers and parents).

These races are for fun, participation and inclusion.

For lunch Parents and Friends will be running a fundraising **BBQ** (pre-order on Compass now open) or feel free to bring a rug and a picnic basket.



New this year is a wonderful art show, open in the Multipurpose at both breaks, showcasing excellence in another avenue - The Arts.



**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE RACES FORMAT FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

**THIS IS TO BEAT THE HEAT BY HAVING THE LONG DISTANCE RACES BEFORE LUNCH INSTEAD OF AFTER LUNCH**