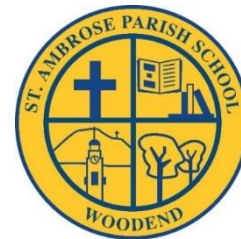


NEWSLETTER No. 2 TERM 1

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY, 2023



Our Vision: Centred by **Faith**, In Partnership with **Community**, We Provide Excellence in **Learning**

2023 Term 1 Dates

Monday 13 February 2023	Cobaw tennis x 4 Grade 6 students
Tuesday 14 February 2023	Parent as Helper Training 9.00 am
Wednesday 15 February 2023	Prep rest day Year 3/4 Mass 9.30am
Thursday 16 February 2023	Parent as Helper Training 5.00 pm
Sunday 19 February 2023	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 11.00am
Tuesday 21 February 2023	Parent-teacher Conversations
Wednesday 22 February 2023	Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am Prep rest day School Advisory Council Information Session 5.30 pm
Thursday 23 February 2023	Parent-teacher Conversations
Tuesday 28 February 2023	Whole school sports day Classroom Information Sessions 3.45-4.30 pm
Wednesday 1 March 2023	Prep rest day Year 1/2 Mass 9.30am
Thursday 2 March 2023	Classroom Information Sessions 3.45-4.30 pm
Friday 3 March 2023	Cobaw Summer Sports – all Grade 5/6 students
Wednesday 8 March 2023	Prep rest day
Monday 13 March 2023	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 15 March – Monday 27 March 2023	NAPLAN
Wednesday 15 March 2023	Gr 6/Prep Buddies Mass
Friday 17 March 2023	Twilight Picnic 5.30 – 7.00 pm
Monday 20 March 2023	Whole School Photo Day
Wednesday 22 March 2023	Sacrament of Reconciliation 12.30pm
Friday 24 March 2023	National Ride2school Day
Monday 27 March – Friday 31 March 2023	Grade 6 Canberra Camp
Wednesday 29 March 2023	End of Term Mass 9.30am
Tuesday 4 April 2023	Sacred Heart College Year 5 transition day End of Term 1 – 3.30pm
Wednesday 5 April 2023	School closure – Literacy PD
Thursday 6 April 2023	School closure – Literacy PD
Friday 7 April 2023	Good Friday
Sunday 9 April 2023	Easter Sunday
Monday 10 April 2023	Easter Monday
Monday 24 April 2023	Term 2 commences
Tuesday 25 April 2023	Anzac Day Public Holiday

Our St Ambrose community acknowledges the traditional owners of this land-their ancestors and is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous Australians and in caring for our planet.



DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN



On Wednesday, we gathered for our beginning of the school year mass where our student leaders and staff were commissioned to repledge their dedication to their roles and our year six leaders were presented with their badges. We welcomed our students, staff, families and friends as well as the whole parish community. During the commissioning service, we prayed for all of our leaders and school community. Pictured is our student leadership team. We congratulate them all as they assume their roles for this year emulating the Gospel values and our expectations of respect, responsibility, resilience and kindness.

In setting the tone for our year we work together to face our challenges and doing what is necessary which isn't always quick and easy.

We support our students to stay open to making mistakes in their learning because if they are making mistakes they are trying new things and practicing new skills, growing themselves and making a difference in the world.

Our final song, "The St Ambrose Song" reflected what we aspire to as a school. As a community we use our growth mindset, knowing that even though learning can be challenging, it can also be fun and enjoyable. We support being creative, using imagination and being the best, we can be!



New Play Areas



Our children are having a wonderful time exploring our new play equipment which they had access to from Thursday. These two areas are for children in years prep to year three. All students have been given an opportunity to try out the new areas outside recess and lunch times. They areas are a most welcomed addition to our playground!

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Expressions of Interest – Save the Date! 22-02-23 5.30 pm

We are calling for expressions of interest from families at the school and from the wider community for additional members for the SAC for 2023. Training will be provided by MACS for anyone that submits an expression of interest. Following the training session, all those that attended will be asked to formally nominate for the SAC if they wish to. All those elected on the SAC need to have completed the training.

Anyone interested in joining the SAC this year can send an expression of interest via email to me directly on bronwyn.phillips@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au.

School Fees

Statements are being sent out in the coming week. Please contact the office if you have any questions about school fees. We do rely on our fees to meet our financial commitments and thank you for your payments. If anyone is experiencing financial stress, please email bronwyn.phillips@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au or call the office.

Donations

I have had some parents ask how to go about making a donation to the school. We always welcome donations and will negotiate with those wishing to donate what the money will support. At present we want to raise funds to put towards having our hardcourts resurfaced. We are also applying for funding for another shade sail to go over the new play equipment. If you would like to make a donation to the school, you can ring Karen Basa or myself and we will organise it with you from there.



School Canteen Submissions of Interest Invited

With the canteen near completion it is time to think about reopening it for lunch orders. If you are interested in assisting with the school canteen please register your interest via the Operoo which has been sent out. We will then plan a meeting to look at what is possible.

I have had requests to continue the Subway lunch day and to

look into sushi lunch options. We will collaborate on these options as well and perhaps we could continue to offer Subway as well as have school canteen on different days. It will depend on how many people are available to assist.

Garden Club

Meagan Stewart is kindly continuing to run our garden club this year and our first session was this week! The children really enjoy these sessions. Thank you Meagan.

If you would like to support Meagan and our students in the garden please come along on Wednesday lunchtimes (2.00 - 2.40pm). Volunteers will need to have a current Working with Children Check and have completed the Parent Helper Course in the last 3 years. Volunteers will need to sign in at the office.

Parent-Teacher Conversations Feb 21st & 23rd

These beginning of year interviews enable the opportunity for you to speak with your child's teacher about your child. This is part of building our partnership with you. Please book your time via Operoo. Please note that Mr. Portelli will have his meetings with parents when he returns. (dates TBA)

Parent Classroom Information Sessions

We are offering classroom information sessions for each class grouping after school on Tuesday February 28th and Thursday March 2nd. It will allow further opportunity to work together with you and for you to learn more about how your children's teachers support your child in their learning, classroom routines and expectations. We encourage you to attend the sessions relevant to you. We hope that you will gain further clarity and insight into how we can work together to support your child's growth. Session times are:

Tuesday, February 28th 3.45pm – 4.30 pm and Thursday, March 2nd 3.45pm – 4.30 pm
in your children's classrooms.

Each class teacher in years prep to year four will run their own information session from their classroom. They will run the same session on Tuesday and Thursday to allow two options for each class. This also means that you could attend a 3-4 session on one afternoon then a prep or 1-2

session on the alternate afternoon. We understand that some of you will have children in 3 or 4 different classes. We ask that you attend the sessions you feel you would benefit most from. Class teachers will also send information home. As Mr. Portelli is on sick leave the year 5-6 teachers will run one session together. This will also allow time after the Thursday session for the year six camp meeting.

For those who wish to attend information sessions and who need it, supervision will be provided for St Ambrose students from 3.45 until 4.30pm on these afternoons in our playground where regular playground rules will apply. This will allow parents to attend sessions. If your child will be staying on they can deliver their bags to their car and then move around to the oval where they will be supervised until 4.30pm.

Note that we will offer information sessions about how to support your child's reading from home later in the term. These sessions will benefit parents who are new to the school and who have children in the junior classes.

Welcome Kerrie Egan

Hi! My name is Kerrie Egan and I am a new Education Support Officer at St Ambrose Parish Primary School. On Mondays and Fridays, I support Mr. Michael Lawlor with Year 3-4 and on Thursdays I support Mrs. Stephanie Rixon and the specialist staff with Year 1-2. On Fridays I also support across the other 1-2 classes.

I am thrilled to be working at St Ambrose Primary School. I have been teaching kindergarten for many years and also have experience tutoring primary school students. I love to see children learning and thriving and excited about new experiences and opportunities.

I enjoy reading, bushwalking, spending time in the country and travel. I love animals and am looking forward to getting another one or two dogs when the time is right. I am anticipating moving from Pascoe Vale closer to Woodend around May.

Thank you for the opportunity to work at St Ambrose and I look forward to supporting and getting to know you and your children.





Supporting Children with Transitions with Lael Stone

The team at The Imperfects have invited Lael Stone, a parenting expert, educator and advocate for children, back on the podcast. In this episode Lael shares a lot of valuable suggestions to support parents in a variety of ways with the challenges of parenting.

One such suggestion was how to support our children during transitions. Below is an overview of her 3 tips. This is a fantastic episode and well worth a listen.

1. Give them space to voice it and validate their experience

“Starting school is big, and it is scary. That makes some much sense”.

Give them the opportunity to say why it is scary.

“Tell me more”, “what feels scary, (or hard) about it?”

Don’t move into the fixing/solving mode. Just be there to listen and validate.

2. More information

Ask them, do we need some more information? Information is so powerful in helping us feel reassured, it helps us understand what is going to happen.

“Why don’t we ring the school or ask your teacher what students can do if they have no one to play with?”

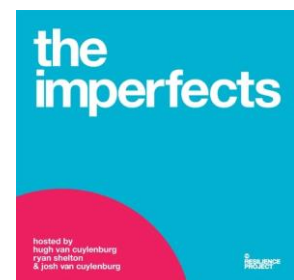
3. Use play to integrate what is happening in their life

Playing games based around the ‘scary thing’ can support children to work through their fears.

“Do you want to play ‘schools’?”

Let them be the teacher, the person in power. Follow their lead.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3EvuK6cCp7L8jnFfmM5iU0?si=l6BrZ891SlqTWdSKahu1yw>



Happy Healthy Meditation

Happy, Healthy Minds Meditation for school children 2023



Woodend Neighbourhood House
47 Forest St Woodend Vic 3442

Thursdays from 4.00pm to 4.45pm
Starting in Term 1 - Thursday 3rd
March to 23rd March 2023
\$40 for 4 weeks paid in advance

These sessions are aimed at Children between the ages of 5 to 12 years in mind. Parents and younger siblings are encouraged and most welcome to attend along with their child/children.

The sessions are filled with fun ways of using meditation techniques that develop attention while encouraging kindness, compassion, and self-knowledge. Mindful awareness promotes physical and mental well being as well as character and ethical development.

Many people, including children find that it just makes them happier.

For further information or to book a place please contact Woodend Neighbourhood House Email: reception@woodendnh.org.au or Phone (03) 5427 1845



Bushfire Procedures for the Bushfire Season

From floods to fires! The Department of Education and Training (DET) has recently advised the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) of the revised Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). As a consequence of this review, St. Ambrose Parish School has been listed on the 2022-23 BARR and will be required to close on days with a fire danger rating listed as Catastrophic.

The following information will help us plan and prepare our school to support the safety of staff, students and the wider community.

Assessing bushfire and grassfire risk Schools and early childhood education services are categorised based on their risk of bushfire and grassfire in line with the Victorian Education Facility Bushfire Risk Methodology and review this classification annually. To inform this classification, we have used the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) analysis informed by the Bushfire Management Overlay, Victorian Fire Risk Register, and terrain and fuel type exposure.

Our school is rated as CAT 3. This means that St. Ambrose Parish School:

- Must close on days forecast as 'Catastrophic' by the Bureau of Meteorology within our designated fire district. Australian Fire Danger Rating System In September 2022, Australia introduced a new fire danger forecasting system, the Australian Fire Danger Rating System

(AFDRS). A nationally consistent system will more accurately predict fire danger and produce clear, simple messages for communities. Victoria has been using a 6-tier system for fire danger ratings, from 'Low' or 'Moderate' to 'Code Red'. The AFDRS will replace the Victorian system this year and uses 4 tiers of fire danger, from 'Moderate' to 'Catastrophic'.

What can parents do?

Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <https://www.sawoodend.catholic.edu.au/>

and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

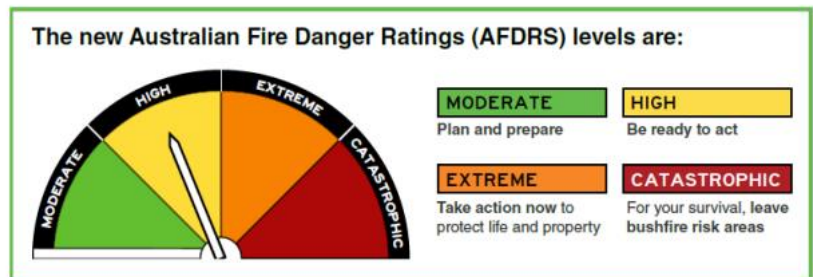
If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about school closures on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) website . For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start.

They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From September 1, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.



- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.



Student Initiatives

Ryder and Jack are planning an added PBL certificate that Ryder suggested should be the, "Rainbow" certificate to be awarded to those who achieve 100 Gotcha tickets! Ryder and Jack are going to design the certificate and meet with the PBL team.

Mia is planning for wonderful winters in the library. She is sourcing games and gathering ideas and will keep us posted!



Student Birthdays



**15 February Scarlett A
Leah W**

Ukulele Club

Mrs. Byrne has created an opportunity for those students keen to take part in Ukulele club on Thursdays at lunch times. The students are pictured enjoying their first session.



Music Lessons at St Ambrose Parish Primary School

Music lessons are back at St Ambrose in 2023, hosted by Jacob Petrossian as per the details given in last week's newsletter.

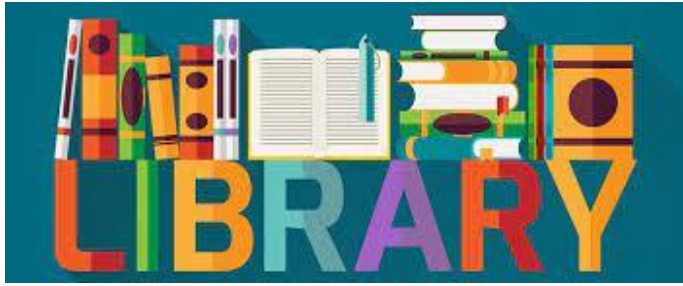
You can get in touch with Jacob to enquire about music lessons and terms/conditions

Phone: 04 3142 5482 Email: jacobpetrossian94@gmail.com

Be Sun smart: Apply Sunscreen

During term one and term four we ask that our children apply sunscreen before they come to school. Each class also has a supply of sunscreen which is reapplied before going out to lunch. Children need also to wear their St Ambrose sunhat when outdoors. Your child may also bring their own sunscreen from home if you prefer a particular brand or if your child has skin allergies. You can access our SunSmart policy via this link - [SunSmart Policy](#)





Hello everyone! Welcome back to the St. Ambrose Library for 2023. For those of you who are new to the school. My name is Clare Shannon. I'm both the Library Coordinator and the Art Teacher. I love to read and try my hardest to link Art to books where I can. The delightful ...Pic of me is from our 2022 Book Week dress up day. I was Alice from one of my favourite all time classics - Alice In Wonderland. Here are a few notes about our library. I look forward to meeting you!

- Your classroom teachers and LSO visit the library weekly to learn more about books and reading and borrow books. As always, we encourage regular reading to embed the love of reading and literacy!
- Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who returned all their books in 2022 to the library so that the team could collate, repair and repurpose many books.
- We have loads of new books and new books on the way too! Look to the top of the shelves for the newbies! Especially our selection of First Nations books.
- Mrs. Kate Old is coordinating the Scholastic books this term and you should have received the 1st newsletter from Scholastic on Monday 6/2.
- Keep an eye on the newsletter for library news, book reviews and other exciting events that the Leaders and FOSAL's and I have planned for 2023! Our student voice is active and evident with our leaders and volunteers.
- **FOSAL's** are *Friends of the St. Ambrose Library*. They are volunteers from year 5 who donate their time to helping the Library Leaders, LSO's and teachers in the library and classroom during 2023. All year 5 students met with me at 1:55 today (Monday 6/2), in the library to discuss the FOSAL duties and process of volunteering.
- Encourage your kids to read the newsletter with you, so that they know what's happening and how to find information too!



Introducing our new Library Leaders: Mia T and Nicholas M.

Mia and Nicholas bring the student voice to our library and assist in many ways within the library. None the least being major organisers for the CBCA Book Week and assistants within the Book Fair. In case you want to be *really* organised for the CBCA Book Week, it is held 21st-25th August and the theme this year is: **READ, GROW, INSPIRE!**

The first initiative Mia and Nicholas have put forth is to organise and help run a **WONDERFUL WINTER** lunchtime within the library. As it's still Summer....I think?? We will have plenty of time to plan some activities and reading time during the dreary winter months.



As I noted earlier, keep an eye on the Library News within the Newsletter to keep up to date with what's happening in the library.

Mia and Nicholas are helping to promote two Library competitions that you can encourage your children to enter if they wish. The entry forms are displayed in the library for reference.



Thanks again, Ms Clare Shannon

ST AMBROSE SCHOOL WELCOME PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE

St Ambrose Parish School Oval

5.30 – 7.00 pm March 17th

Wear something green to celebrate St.
Patrick's day!



BYO Picnic & Rug.
No Alcohol Permitted.



Around the playground



Ava and Hayley can't get enough of learning ...so they have continued outside!



Hooray! The basketball courts are BACK!!!



Our senior students teaching the some junior students, including our preps a new game.



Mia and Cosette rock fishing!



Kate and Lucy enjoying time with their new fuzzy friends.

Cubbyhouse capers!





Imaginative play or budding movie directors.
Look out HOLLYWOOD here comes Rex, Xavier & Dash!



See last week's edition of the newsletter for:

- Production news
- Parents as helpers training
- Student leader positions
- Staffing for 2023
- Girl's Football
- St. Ambrose Sporting House names & History

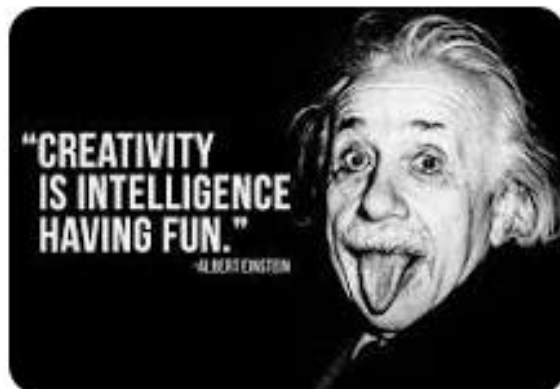
[Newsletter-T1-Wk2-03.02.2023](#)

Covid Safe Guide, Free RAT Kits & Masks Available PICK up from the OFFICE

We continue to follow Covid-19 safe protocols to ensure we keep our school environment free from the spread of Coronavirus. If you would like further RAT tests or face masks you may collect these from the boxes outside the office.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwyn Phillips
Principal





JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS
FAITH & FAMILY

WEEK 2. TERM 1. 2023.

Salt + Light Prayer

God our Father,
on a hillside in Galilee, your Son Jesus called us to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.

Give us the strength and wisdom to become the people of the Beatitudes in our day
so that our words may season the world with the flavour of the Gospel and
our lives be shining examples of Jesus, who is the true Light of the world.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



**ALL WELCOME
MIDDLE YEARS MASS (YR3/4)
Wednesday 15th February,
9.30am
St Ambrose Church.**

IMPORTANT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DATES

- Sunday 19th February – Reconciliation Commitment Mass – 11am –
St Ambrose Church
- Thursday 9th March - *Reconciliation Preparation Evening with Denise Arnel* –
6.30 -7.30pm, St Ambrose Church
- Sacrament of Reconciliation – Wednesday 22nd March - 12.30pm –
St Ambrose Church

Jesus calls His disciples to be salt and light in the world. The person who lives and spreads the grace of Christ is salt. The person who lets the Gospel shine with good deeds is light.

For all Faith & Family related matters please email nicole.sherlockbyrne@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au



Gospel Reflection

Salt & Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

I suppose it says something about my age, but I can't help hearing this week's Gospel reading and hearing the song from the musical *Godspell* play in my head. It is performed by the whole cast and I find it energising. However, the significance of this reading is much more than memories I enjoy.

It is fact an important part of the fuller "Sermon on the Mount," with Matthew's presentation moving through several phases as he outlines and fleshes out more deeply what it is to be a true disciple. It begins with the Beatitudes and then moves to two powerful sayings about ordinary things, salt and light, before moving on to another major section of the discourse.

In this Sermon, Jesus is speaking primarily to his disciples rather than an enormous crowd, and he has just outlined what it takes to 'blessed' or 'happy', also clearly saying this includes the real possibility of persecution. I find the second of these to be relatively clear – "You are the light of the world."

The first however I find less so. It has become part of our own language. Being "the salt of the earth" is a way we describe decent, trustworthy, and straightforward people. This may have originated with this Sermon, but I suspect Jesus meant something more challenging.

We use salt as a seasoning for food, to enhance the flavour (though sometimes using too much). In essence, we can take it or leave it according to preference – and I almost never use it. I also know salt can't actually lose its taste. It may be broken down into its constituent elements, but it is no longer salt. It can be mixed with other substances or impurities and become unusable, but it is never tasteless.

In Matthew's context, it meant much more than acting as a seasoning. Salt was primarily a preservative, a way of keeping food edible and useful. It therefore was life-saving and an essential good. Life was much more precarious and threatening without it. That is why workers were paid in salt at times, and why there was often a salt tax or levy. It was vital to the world and its people; underpinning so much of what was necessary.

Certainly, we can think of 'salt' as seasoning, or as wisdom that can form the world, and that is reassuring. However, this saying is much more challenging if I remember it is being spoken to those who just heard the Beatitudes. It will be the "blessed" vulnerable and non-grasping people who can, in the words of Brendan Byrne, "really help lift humanity's burdens, thereby becoming and remaining 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world'." It will be the open, humble, and vulnerable who make the world safe for humanity. And I must continue to ask, why am I not one of them?

Kevin Lawlor
Adult Faith Education

COMMUNITY NEWS



HAWKS DAY OUT!

11 FEB 2PM TO 9PM

**TRYBOOKING.COM/CFNVB**

\$20 ADULT / \$50 FAMILY / \$10 UNDER 18

FOOD TRUCKS - DRINKS - LIVE MUSIC - KIDS ACTIVITIES



Active KIDS Sports



Kids will learn a variety of ball games, to improve motor skills, technique and interact with other children.

Term 1

Wednesdays
3-5 Years
10.00-10.45am
Buffalo Sports Stadium
1-29 Forest Street Woodend

Book Now

By phone: 54 273 411
In person: Buffalo Sports Stadium
Online: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/buffalo
Email: buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB



WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL


SEASON 2023 NOW OPEN

**BOYS FOOTY UNDER 17s, 15s.
MIXED U/13s, U/11s, U/9s.
GIRLS FOOTBALL U15, U18.
NETBALL U/17, U15, U13, U11.**

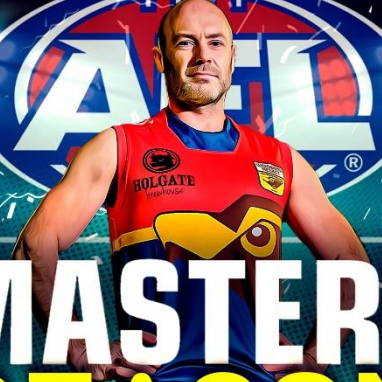

**REGISTER NOW
SEASON STARTS APRIL 2ND**

Email new enquiries to
registrar@woodendhawks.com.au
Go to....
www.woodendhawks.teamapp.com

THEN GO TO THE REGISTRATION PAGE AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNUP
ALSO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.



Scan for more info



MASTERS SEASON 2023 LAUNCH



Over 35 & love footy?
Whether you want to play the VIC Country Masters season, or just train with a great bunch of blokes, who value physical & mental health... **JOIN US!!**
(No experience necessary)

**Friday 3rd March 2023 | Buffalo Stadium
6:30PM** Casual Training followed by food & refreshments at Woodend RSL