Term Four, Newsletter 14, Friday 10th October, 2025

St Ambrose Primary School

Centred by Faith - In Partnership with Community -We Provide Excellence in Learning















Term 4 dates: Pg 2 Message from the Principal: Pg 3-6 Birthdays & Student Awards: Pg 8 School News: Pg 9 Mental Health & Wellbeing: Pg 10 Faith & Family: Pg 11 Community News: Pg: 12-13





New Beginning By Tahni Derbin We pay our respects & give thanks to our traditional custodians of this great land and give thanks for all that our country provides for us.

The Journey Continues

As we step into this final term of the year, may we restore our spirits, renew our passion for learning, and nurture our compassion for those in need.

May we bring joy into our classrooms, inspire our students, and support them in their learning and growth.

Transform us as we seek to transform: guide us as we seek to guide. Keep our minds and hearts open to our families, our children, and their needs, and to the world around uscollectively working to realise our shared vision

Help us to listen more deeply to the world and to God's Wordso that we may be attentive to our inner knowing and the wisdom of our colleagues,

and lead always by the example of Jesus. We pray for justice and peace in our troubled world.

Amen

Term 4 dates

Monday 13 October 2025	Woodend Dental Oral Hygiene – 30 mins per class
ŕ	Region Athletics Bendigo
	PFA to plan fete in staffroom
Tuesday 14 October 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
Wednesday 15 October 2025	Grade 3/4- All About Water Incursion
,	Assembly – 2.50pm
Thursday 16 October 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
Friday 17 October 2025	Division Hot Shots Tennis Castlemaine
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
Wednesday 22 October 2025	Middle Years Mass 9.30am
772372327, 22 3213227 2323	5/6P Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
	Wonders of Living Gr 5/6 online parent night 6.30-7.30pm
Sunday 26 October 2025	Last day for mango fundraiser orders
Monday 27 October 2025	Grade 3/4 excursion to Polly Woodside
Wednesday 29 October 2025	Canteen closed today. Super Sushi is still available.
Wednesday 25 October 2025	Junior Years Mass 9.30am
	Wonders of Living Gr 5 & 6 Parent and Student Online Evening 6.30-7.45pm
Friday 31 October 2025	World Teachers' Day
Monday 3 November 2025	Pupil Free Day – Staff Report Writing Day
Tuesday 4 November 2025	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 11 November 2025	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Prep orientation session 1 9-10am
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Transition Day for Grade 6 students
	Senior Level Mass 9.30am
Monday 17 November 2025	Prep/1 Mad About Science Incursion
,	
Tuesday 18 November 2025	Grade 3/4 Western Water Incursion 9-12.30pm
Wednesday 19 November 2025	Prep Orientation Session 2 9-10am
0	Advent Prayer Service Week 1 2.45-3.15pm
Sunday 23 November 2025	School open to parishioners for 30th anniversary
Tuesday 25 November 2025	Advent Prayer Service Week 2 (Gr 5/6)
Sunday 30 November 2025	First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday 2 December 2025	Prep Orientation Session 3 & Step Up Day 9-11am
	Grade 5 speeches 11.45-1.15pm
Wednesday 3 December 2025	Reach Program Gr 5/6 9.30-1.30pm
	Advent Prayer Service Week 3 (Gr 3/4)
5:15-010005	Braemar Orientation Day
Friday 5 December 2025	Family Carols and picnic on the oval 5-7pm
Sunday 7 December 2025	Feast of St Ambrose
	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday 8 December 2025	St Ambrose Feast Celebration Day - Kaboom 9.30-11am
	Advent Prayer Service Week 4 (Gr 2)
Tuesday 0 Danas bas 2005	Graduation Prayer Service/Ceremony 6-7pm
Tuesday 9 December 2025	SHC Year 7 Orientation Day
	Gisborne Secondary Year 7 Orientation Day
W 1 1 40 D 1 000F	Nativity Prayer Service (Prep/1) 2.45-3.15pm
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Last day for Canteen
Friday 10 December 2005	End of Year Mass 9.30am
Friday 12 December 2025	Grade 6 Splash 12-2pm
Sunday 14 December 2025	Third Sunday of Advent
Monday 15 December 2025	Students last day of classes
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Numeracy Testing
Wednesday 17 December 2025	Numeracy Testing
Thursday 18 December 2025	Staff meeting day – no students
Friday 19 December 2025	Staff TIL day – no students
20 December 2025 – 27 January 2026	Term 4 school holidays
Tuesday 27 January 2026	Staff commence
Wednesday 28 January 2026	Literacy Testing
Thursday 29 January 2026	Literacy Testing
Friday 30 January 2026	Students commence





Please note:

The Canteen will
be closed on
Wednesday 29 October 2025,
however Super Sushi orders
will still be open.

Term 4 dates

Message from the Principal

Dear parents, families and friends,

We are excited to begin the final term of the year and look forward to all the learning, celebrations, and opportunities it will bring. Term Four is always a busy yet rewarding time, filled with special events, achievements, and important milestones for our students. Together, we will continue to nurture curiosity, celebrate growth, and support each child to do their very best.

I hope you all enjoyed some restful time with your children over the term break and that they have returned refreshed and ready to embrace the new term ahead.

Please note that Parent–Student–Teacher Interviews will be held over the next two weeks. These are valuable opportunities to reflect on your child's progress and set goals for the remainder of the year.

On the front page of our newsletter, you'll see our Year 5–6 students exploring our new Nüdel Kart resource, which was purchased using funds raised from the Colour Run. This wonderful STEM resource will be enjoyed by all classes—thank you again for your generous support!

We will soon begin the process of determining class structures and groupings for 2026.

A reminder that enrolments for 2026 should now be submitted. If you know of families who are yet to enrol, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

Click here to view our Class Placement Policy.

If there is any information about your child we are not aware of that you feel should be considered in this process, please email your child's class teacher or contact me directly at principal@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au. We take great care and time as a staff team to ensure that every child is placed where they can best thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust.
We look forward to making this final term
of the year a memorable one for everyone.



AFL Roadshow Fun!



Our students had an exciting time taking part in the AFL Roadshow activities this week.

The sessions were full of energy and enthusiasm as everyone had the chance to practise their footy skills, enjoy team games, and learn more about staying active and having fun through sport. It was wonderful to see every student involved—cheering each other on, showing great teamwork, and giving everything a go. A big thank you to the AFL Roadshow team for providing such a positive and engaging experience for our students!

Disco Thanks & Next PFA Meeting



Thankyou to Kristy C and our fantastic PFA for organising our end of term three disco fun!
Our next parents and friends association meeting will be held on **Monday 13th October**at 7.00pm in the staffroom.

Please email Sophie Lynch on sophielynch1981@gmail.com if you would like further information. We aim to start planning for our 2026 school fete at this meeting.



Dental Health



Next week our local dental nurse will conduct oral health lessons in each classroom and provide each student with a take home dental health kit. We are pleased to have the support of this local business to educate our children.

Basketball Champions



Recently, St.Ambrose students Archer, Caleb, George, Remy, Deon, Seb, and Ryan played in the domestic basketball grand final. Their team name was the Jimmy Warriors named after Deon's little brother. The team was successful, losing only one game in the whole season.

In the first quarter we started firing by scoring 10 points in the first minute on the other hand the opposition only scored 2. They used their first timeout of the game which gave us momentum, but it turns out that their timeout gave them momentum instead. In the second half they came back a little bit but we were still able to hold our lead by 9. The third quarter started off with our team bringing our lead back by making it a 15 point lead. We finished off the game with the Jimmy Warriors beating the opposition by 18 points.

Our team stats were,

Archer with 8 points, Caleb with 20 points, George with 11 points, Seb with 8 points, Remy with 2 points, Ryan with 2 points, Deon with 2 points.

HuffnPuff



This week former PE teacher and parent Libby N facilitated physical activities on the oval between 8.30 and 8.45 am on Wednesday and Friday morning. It was great to see so many of our children engage in the activities and enjoy them. Thank you for offering your time Libby. All students are welcome to participate on Wednesday and Friday mornings!

Summer Uniform & Hats

From week three all students should be wearing their full summer uniform. This includes wearing the St Ambrose sun hat for outdoor play. As per our Sunsmart policy, all students are required to wear a hat while playing outdoors. Please ensure that your child brings their hat to school and that it is clearly named. Click here for summer uniform requirements.

Dogs are not Permitted Onsite



Many of our children have pet dogs that they love dearly, and it's wonderful to see them enjoying walks together on the way to and from school. However, for health and safety reasons, dogs and other pets are not permitted on school grounds, even if they are on a lead, unless prior approval has been granted and arrangements made with your child's teacher. Some students have allergies or anxiety around animals, and we appreciate your understanding and support in keeping pets offsite.

Parent Teacher Conversations

Your meetings with your child's teachers are scheduled over the coming two weeks. Students in years 3-6 may attend these meetings with you if you would like them to. Appointments should be made via Operoo if you havent already made them

World teachers Day: Hats Off to our Teachers! A Message from our Captains



School Captains Sonny and Asher are planning for our "Hats off to Teachers" day.

Hi everyone, welcome back to term 4, I hope you had a great holiday. This term on the 31st of October is World Teachers Day. This year's theme is hats off to teachers. Using this theme, on the 31st everyone can bring their favourite hat or even a silly homemade one to wear at school. Can't wait to see your creations. By Sonny

2026 PFA Fete Planning



We welcome your attendance on Monday October 13th at 7pm in the staffroom if you would like to join our 2026 fete planning committee.

Mango Fundraiser



Our Mango Fundraiser back by popular demand! See flyer on page 10.

Roblox



Information about the Roblox App was sent out via Operoo yesterday.

Roblox is an app with an age rating of 15+. We understand that it is a parent's choice and responsibility around the use of Roblox at home but we wanted to share the impact it can have on students at school.

In the interests of child safety we ask that all families read the information shared.

School Fees 2026

A detailed letter has been sent to all families via Operoo about our 2026 fees, which I have summarised below for your forward planning:

Family Size Family Fee

1 Child \$2,750 per family
2 Children \$2,800 per family
3 Children \$2,850 per family
4+ Children \$2,900 per family

In addition, there will be the following Levies:
Capital Levy of \$220 per family
Curriculum Levy of \$670 per student
Camp Levy of \$270 per student (Years 3 and 4)
and \$510 (Years 5 and 6)
Swimming Levy of \$30 per student



Thank you Rossi Family

For looking after the chickens over the school holidays. Our hens are looking very healthy and happy and are all laying!



Staffing 2026

Year 5-6 families are already aware that Mr Micheal Portelli will be retiring from teaching at the conclusion of term four after working as a teacher for 16 plus years. Micheal has been a valued member of our team and will be missed. We hope to see Micheal back as a relief teacher from time to time.

Two years ago we were fortunate to welcome Ms Alexis Seddon on to our staff. Alexis very quickly established herself as a capable and personable teacher and is respected by our staff and the families she has worked with. Due to relocating and family reasons Alexis will also finish with us at the end of this year.

We are sorry to see Micheal and Alexis go however we warmly wish them well as they move into a new phase of their lives.

Fortunately we have been able to attract two great teachers who will also be missed from their current school communities. Ms Katelyn Sligar and Mr Kyle Baboth. Katelyn is relocating to Kyneton after teaching in the Sale diocese and Kyle is very happy to be working closer to his home after communting to teach in Melbourne.

Details about where teachers will be placed will be shared later in the term when we have our class structures finalised.

Staffing 2026: Introducing Kyle Baboth & Katelyn Sligar



I'm thrilled to be joining the St Ambrose Primary School community in 2026. I currently teach Prep and am passionate about creating a nurturing, engaging, and fun classroom where students feel valued and inspired to learn.

Outside of teaching, I love my animals and training & preparing my show horses, competing nationally. I love travelling, discovering beautiful places throughout Australia.

As a proud local resident of the Macedon Ranges, I'm excited to contribute to this vibrant school community. I can't wait to bring my energy and enthusiasm to St Ambrose next year!



I am very excited to be joining the St Ambrose community in 2026! I have been teaching for 12 years and love sharing my passion for learning with students. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my two cats and dog, playing the piano, and getting lost in a good book, especially a thriller or fantasy. I am also ice-hockey mad and love travelling overseas in the summer, especially to Canada, to watch a few games. I am really looking forward to meeting the students, families, and staff and making this beautiful part of the world my new home.



Next Newsletter

For more news and photos visit our <u>website</u> and look at latest news by clicking on our Facebook button.

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 24th October 2025.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal

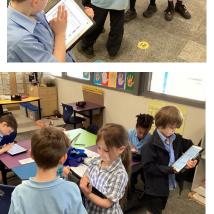
AROUND THE SCHOOL



HOW WE SEE GOD - P/10













On Monday 15th September we had 10 students represent St Ambrose at the Goldfields/Sandhurst/Campaspe division athletics event at Bendigo.

The students competed exceptionally well in good spirit and competition.

6 of these students came in the top 2 of their event so have qualified for the Loddon Mallee region event on the 13th October. Congratulations to Elke, Tom,

Deon, Tora, Aston & Isaac. A big thank you to our parent volunteers who helped out with our jobs on the day

- Kim C and Cam C.











Around the School

Birthdays & Student Awards





II OCTOBER
12 OCTOBER
17 OCTOBER
18 OCTOBER

CHARLOTTE W
MATTEO T
RUBY Z W
JACK R, EMILIA T

P/10	Charlie C for his effort in writing to record the sounds in every word. Well done!		
P/10	Lachlan M for his perseverance when skip counting. You are a super star!!		
P/1T	Anna M for being a responsible leader and helping the class during production.		
	Well done!		
P/1T	Poppy P for being a responsible leader and helping the class during production.		
	Well done!		
P/1T	Stuart P for being a helpful and friendly member of the class.		
P/1S	Nick L for working hard to explain his thinking and ideas in Maths. Well done!		
P/1S	Audrey C for her resilient attitude. You never give up and always give 100% to all		
	that you do. Well done!		
P/1S	Ava T for her dedication and determination when practising her reading. Well done!		
P/1S	James F for his hard work and effort when sounding out words in his writing.Well		
	done!		
2KR	Skylar C for demonstrating her understanding of bar models!		
2KR	Lucas T for displaying focus during maths tasks!		
2KR	Anaisia M for asking questions to assist with her learning!		
3/4CW	N Jacques B for his wonderful work and understanding of decimals.		
3/4CW	N Elissa A for always making sure her work is neat and well presented!		
3/4CW	Ben C for demonstrating resilience and a 'can do' attitude!		
3/4M	Emily S for always completing her work to a high standard.		
3/4M	Toby C for overcoming his nerves and speaking wonderfully at the Vaudeville		
	production.		
3/4O	Augie L for being a model in the room during production week.		
3/4O	Rafy V for his fabulous attitude towards learning! Keep it up Rafy!		
3/4O	Jacob W for blessing 3/40 with an eloquent and genuine Acknowledgement of		
	Country.		
5/6 M	Archie S for his artistic and creative flair shown at the production.		
5/6 M	Catalina B for her kindness and respect towards others.		
5/6M	Jorel L for his creative approach to the production. Well done!		

PBL Bronze Awards - Elliott N, Scarlett A-G, Harry O, Dominic O
PBL Silver Awards - Elle S, Audrey C, Ava T, Harry R, Mack R, Alfred O, Elise M, Taj M, Flo H, Sailor C, Harper C, Elias B, Teddy A, Mateo S
PBL Gold Awards - Redmond O, Molly M, Jack D, Louis M, Emilia T, Rex R, Mosako S, Maggie C, Lachlan G, Jacob W, Grace H, Sofia M, Annie D
PBL Rainbow Awards - Nick L, Grace Y, Abi B, Rafy V, Bosco L

Sports Stars of the Week

Elias B for always following the rules and instructions in PE class. Abi B for excellent participation in all PE classes.

School News





Order your Bowen Special Mangoes today!

Pre-order your 7 kg tray of Bowen Special Mangoes (aka Kensington Pride) delivered fresh from the farm!

(approx. 12-23 mangoes per tray depending on fruit size)

Your order makes a difference - thank you for supporting our fundraiser!



Orders close:

26 October 2025

Delivery week:

Early December

Price per tray:

\$30.00

Order - <u>flexischools.com.au</u>

or contact the office for cash/card payment. Ph. (03) 54271285

School News



Mental Health & Wellbeing at St Ambrose Erin Brass



Term 4, 2025 Loddon Mallee Regional Parenting

What's On: Term 4

All programs are delivered by our qualified and passionate facilitators.

Special Events

Creating Cooperation and Connection

Tuesday, 28 October | \$10 7pm - 8.30pm The Capital Theatre, Bendigo





Multi-Session Programs

Tuning in to Teens | 6 Sessions, Tuesdays

The adolescent years can be challenging for parents, carers and teenagers to navigate. This program helps parents and carers to understand their teenagers and build strong relationships with them

FREE | Tuesdays, 14 Oct - 18 Nov | 10am - 12pm Online, via Microsoft Teams



Tuning in to Kids | 6 Sessions, Mondays

Helping parents and carers build their skills to help their children develop emotional intelligence and recognise their emotions usin 'emotion coaching'.

FREE | Mondays, 27 Oct - 1 Dec | 10.30am - 12.30pm CCV - Bendigo, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo



Registrations are essential for all of our programs and workshops, places are limited.



www.catholiccarevic.org.au/workshops



Term 4, 2025 Loddon Mallee Regional Parenting

Single-Session Workshops

Building Resilience in Kids

Resilience is not just about managing stresses, but also developing skills for dealing with challenges and becoming independent.

rres Thursday, 16 October | 9.15am - 10.45am East Loddon P-12 College, Dingee Rd, Dingee Register: sarah.krahe@education.vic.gov.au



Starting School

Practical ideas for parents and carers to assist their children with their transition to school. Designed for any parents or carers with children starting primary school in 2026.

FREE Thursday, 6 November | 9.30am - 11am Bendigo Library, 259 Hargreaves St, Bendigo



Tech Strategies for Families

Reflect on the use of technology in your family; considering challenges, opportunities and how to set healthy boundaries for your family.

FREE Monday, 8 December | 10am - 11.30am Kangaroe Flat Library, 23 Lockwood Rd, Kangaroe Flat



Stepfamilies - through your children's eyes

Assisting parents to develop a greater understanding of what their children need and how they can best support them to adjust to their new family and/or home

FREE

Tuesday, 9 December | 12pm - 3pm CCV - Bendigo, 176-178 McCrae St, Bendigo



Registrations are essential for all of our programs and workshops, places are limited.

Please call us if you have questions on 1800 123 228 or email bendigo.reception@catholiccarevic.org.au



Register: www.catholiccarevic.org.au/workshops

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS Faith & Family





Prayer:

God, I acknowledge You as Lord over every area of my life today.

Help me walk in Your perfect will in all that I do and everything that I say.

Copyright Stormie Omartian.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for

For collaboration between different religious traditions Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN TERM FOUR, 2025:

29th October	Junior Level Mass (Grs P-2)	9:30 am
12th November Senior Level Mass (Gr 5/6)		9:30 am
19th November	Advent Prayer Service Week 1 (Jocelyn to lead)	2:45 pm
25th November	Advent Prayer Service Week 2 (Grs 5/6 to lead)	2:45 pm
3rd December	Advent Prayer Service Week 3 (Grs 3/4 to lead)	2:45 pm
8th December	Advent Prayer Service Week 4 (Gr 2 to lead)	2:45 pm
8th December	Grade 6 Prayer Service and Graduation	6:00 pm
9th December Nativity Prayer Service (P/1)		2:45 pm
10th December	End of Year / St Ambrose Feast Day Mass	9:30 am

sit at the back or upstairs to make sure there is room for all the students.

As the Parish Office is closed until Wednesday next week, the links to the Parish Newsletter and the Children's Liturgy are not available.

Gospel Reflection: Luke 17:5-10

When Jesus or the writers of the New Testament talk about faith, they do not mean simply believing a set of statements such as we find in the Creed. Faith in the biblical sense means the kind of trust you have in someone that makes you risk everything to follow them. This is the kind of faith the disciples ask of Jesus as they make their way to Jerusalem. Jesus replies that even if their faith were the size of a mustard seed, it could do great things.

In the Gospels, the mustard seed is an example of something very tiny that possesses great potential for growth. Indeed, St Matthew says that faith the size of a mustard seed moves mountains (Mt 17:20). Whether Jesus spoke about mountains or mulberry trees isn't important. What is important is how he challenges his followers to have the kind of faith that will make us aspire to do things that might seem beyond our ordinary capacity.

Jesus then uses a parable to describe what is expected of servants. The situation he depicts would have been familiar to his audience, a medium-sized farmer who can afford to employ a single worker as a kind of jack-of-alltrades. The work would have included working in the fields and also helping around the house. It would be unthinkable for someone who employed such a servant to prepare the servant's dinner and wait on the servant at table. It would have been the other way around. Jesus applies the parable directly to his disciples. They have no right to expect special treatment for doing what is expected of them - they are simply servants of the Kingdom of God.

We could say that today's Gospel is about two of the basic attitudes that should characterise the disciple of Jesus. The first is the need for a strong faith and trust that will not be daunted even by things that look impossible. Saints are people who do not take no for an answer when they face great obstacles. The second is the need for an attitude of humility that doesn't expect to be thanked simply for doing what is required of them. It is the direct opposite of the attitude of the Pharisee who expected public recognition for every act of piety.

Sometimes we can be tempted to think we deserve credit for doing our Christian duty. We go to Mass regularly; we contribute financially to the Church, we say our prayers, we try our best to live the Gospel every day. We consider ourselves to be good Catholics. So, when we think of all those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith, or have lost the faith altogether, we might conclude we deserve recognition, some kind of reward. Surely, God is mightily pleased with us and will thank us for our faithfulness.

But what does Jesus say in today's Gospel? "When you have done all you been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.'" What Jesus is saying is simple but not very comforting. No worker, no teacher, no student, no parent expects special recognition simply for doing what is expected of them. The same applies to his followers. He is reminding us that we are merely servants, and therefore should never expect a special reward or honour or bonus or pat on the back for doing what as Christians we are called to do anyway. We shouldn't expect to be congratulated simply for fulfilling our baptismal promises. It's like rewarding someone just for turning up for work.

Jesus is reminding us that we have received something precious, to be treasured - the gift of faith. This is no ordinary gift. To live a life of faith is merely to do our duty. That will bring its own rewards.

God gives faith to all who ask for it. Pray for the light of faith and for the strength to live out its implications.

Copyright: Pathways to The Future Down and Connor (All Rights Reserved)

Faith & Family 11



COMMUNITY NEWS







YOGA MINDFULNESS BREATH WORK

PLAY CONNECT WONDER

PREP-YR6 **THURSDAYS** 4PM-4.45PM

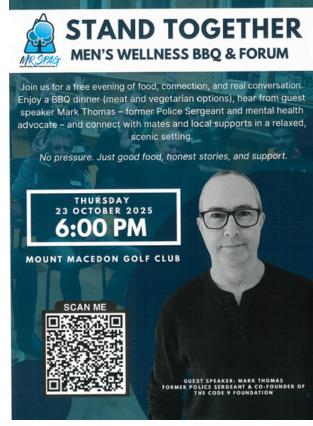
15 Buckland St Woodend 3442 (Norma Richardson Hall)







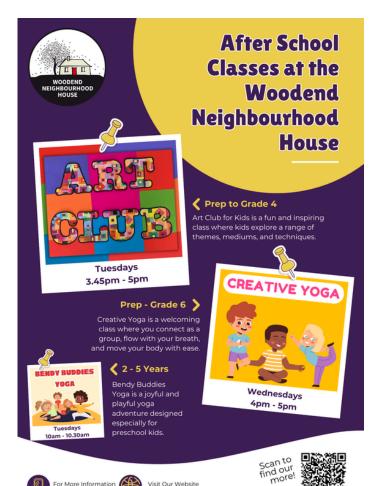




12 Community News



COMMUNITY NEWS



dendnh.org.au







Community News 13