

St Ambrose Primary School

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

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind



"Lest we Forget"

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of this land, and offer our respect to Elders both past present & emerging.



"In Hope there is desire of good things to come, and God's word helps us find reason for hope."

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 15 May 2026.

Term 2 Dates

Saturday 2 May 2026	Confirmation Commitment Mass 5pm
Sunday 3 May 2026	Confirmation Commitment Mass 11am
Tuesday 5 May 2026	Hanging Rock Cross Country Mother's Day Afternoon Tea – 2-2.45pm Mother's Day Prayer and Activities in the classrooms – 2.45-3.30pm
Wednesday 6 May 2026	Grade 3/4 "Weekaway" camp
Thursday 7 May 2026	Grade 3/4 "Weekaway" camp
Friday 8 May 2026	Staff TIL day – Pupil Free Day
Sunday 10 May 2026	Mother's Day
Monday 11 May 2026	Literacy PD for staff – Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 12 May 2026	Grade 5/6 Cobaw Soccer Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
Wednesday 13 May 2026	Junior Level (Gr 1/2) Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 14 May 2026	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm
Friday 15 May 2026	National Walk Safely to School Day
Monday 18 May 2026	School nurse to visit Prep students 9-11am School Open Morning 9.30-11am
Tuesday 19 May 2026	School nurse to visit Prep students 9-11am
Wednesday 20 May 2026	School nurse to visit Prep students 9-11am Middle Level (Gr 3/4) Mass 9.30am
Friday 22 May 2026	Division Cross Country Castlemaine
Monday 25 May 2026	School Photos
Tuesday 26 May 2026	Grade 5/6 Cobaw Winter Sports
Wednesday 27 May 2026	Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 29 May 2026	Confirmation Practice 12.45-1.45pm
Saturday 30 May 2026	Sacrament of Confirmation 1pm
Tuesday 2 June 2026	Region Cross Country St Arnaud
Wednesday 3 June 2026	Buddies Mass (Prep/Gr 5/6) 9.30am
Friday 5 June – Monday 8 June 2026	Woodend Winter Arts Festival
Monday 8 June 2026	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 June 2026	Staff TIL Day – Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 10 June 2026	Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 16 June 2026	Grade 3/4 Western Water Incurion 11.40-3.30pm
Wednesday 24 June 2026	End of Term 2 Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 26 June 2026	End of Term 2 – dismissal 3.30pm
Saturday 27 June – Sunday 12 July 2026	School Holidays
Monday 13 July 2026	Term 3 commences. Swimming Program commences at Kyneton Sports & Aquatic Centre



Message from the Principal

Dear Families, Parishioners and Friends,

It was truly inspiring to see our students, their families and community members lining the streets and marching together during our local ANZAC March on Saturday.

By participating in this march, our school community did more than just walk a route; we collectively paused to honour the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women. It was a powerful tribute to those who have served, and continue to serve, our country.

Events like these are vital "teachable moments" for our children. This opportunity for our students to engage with the RSL and listen to the stories of our ANZACs helps bridge the gap between history books and real-world gratitude. It teaches them about resilience by learning about the hardships faced by those before us and about mateship in seeing the community come together in a spirit of unity. It also shows our children that the legacy of the ANZACS is reflected in the freedoms we enjoy today.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you for supporting your children to take part in this day. It was great to learn about the history of those included in the mural recently completed on the RSL building. Your support ensures that the ANZAC spirit remains a living, breathing part of our school's culture.

Our captains Amari and Eire read respectfully. We are incredibly proud of how our students conducted themselves—they were true ambassadors for our school.



"Lest we forget."



On another note, Justine will be on leave over the next two weeks which means that Karen and Erin will share manning the office.

Mother's Day



We are very much looking forward to hosting our mothers, grandmothers and those like mothers to us next Tuesday May 5th at 2.00pm in the library for afternoon tea followed by gathering in family groups in classrooms for a prayer service and games from 2.45pm. You may go directly to the library and sign in there when you arrive via the side courtyard. Note that Yr 3-4 students will bring their gifts home on Tuesday 5th due to camp. All other classes will bring their gifts home on Thursday 7th.

Fete Thankyou from Fr. John



I am writing to thank you and the St Ambrose Fete Committee for your generous donation of the TV screen for the church. This gift will help not only the parish but our school community when ever they gather in the church for Mass, Liturgy, Graduation and other whole school gatherings. The tv was installed last we and used for the first time last weekend. It certainly enhanced the participation of those gathered.

The fete was a great event, despite the weather. The dunking machine was fun, with numerous plunges into the water either by the ball hitting the target or someone running up and hitting the target with their hand.

Once again, from the parish community THANK YOU for your generous donation of the tv and support of our parish community.

I look forward to being dunked in two years' time!!

Fr John

All remaining funds raised will be put towards updating the furniture in the Art/STEM room. We will keep you posted!

Welcome Fr. Zaheer

Fr. Zaheer is our new assistant priest who is pictured on the right with his pet dog Zara. Fr. Zaheer is looking forward to meeting some of you on Tuesday afternoon at our Mother's Day afternoon tea.

Welcome Fr. Zaheer!
Fr. John will be joining us too!



Bulb Drive, Cubby and Garden Plans

We have many motivated young people who are working with their teachers to further develop our garden. Thanks to the funds raised through our bulb drive (\$1,276.20) we can now begin this work which also involves adding another cubby house!



Sovereign Hill Excursion 5-6



Our year 5-6 students enjoyed a day of learning and exploration at Sovereign Hill last Friday. It certainly did offer an opportunity to step back in time and learn more about life in the goldfields.

Student Initiatives P-1

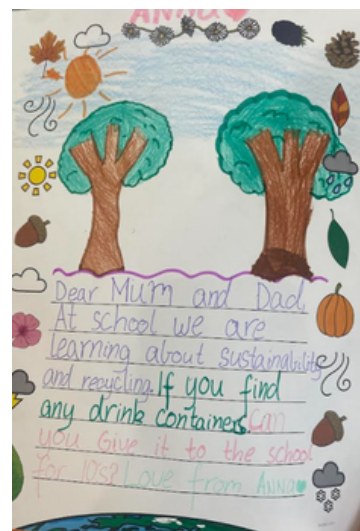


This term, 1/2 will be running a sustainability project focused on collecting juice boxes, bottles, cans, and any 10c refund items from around the school. These will be returned to a recycling centre, with the funds raised going directly back into developing our class garden for this term.

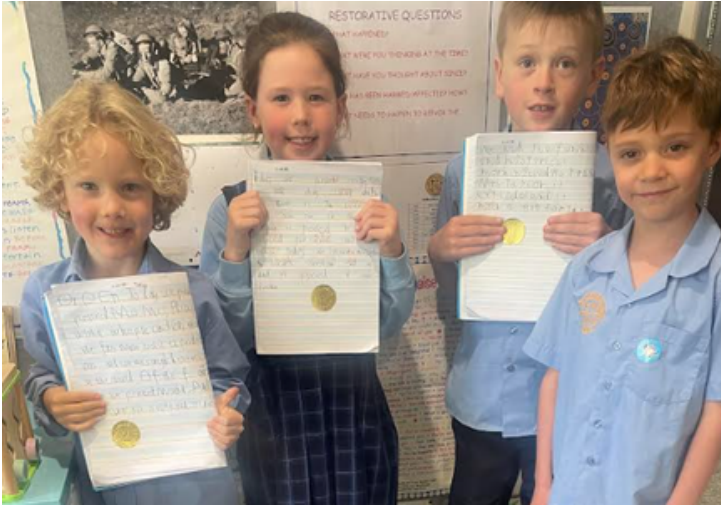
If any classes would like to support them by collecting items in their classroom, they would really appreciate it. They will provide a collection bucket, and students will organise weekly collections from participating classrooms.

Moving forward, they would love to continue this initiative beyond the term and explore further ways the funds raised could be used to support sustainability across the school.

Thanks so much for your support!



Student Writing Progress



Our year 1-2 students pictured above enjoyed sharing their writing which was inspired after tricking a number of us with their Whoopi cushion! Much laughter and fun was had along with some very creative stories being written.

Child Safety & Working With Children Checks

We truly value our connection with our families and working in partnership with you. To comply with child safe laws you are required to have a current WWCC if you wish to enter the school beyond the office during school hours without a staff member with you. If you don't have a current WWCC we are required to accompany you. You also need to sign in at the office if you go beyond the office area. For events like our mothers day afternoon tea where we have a high number of people onsite we ask that you sign in at the library where there will be a sign in sheet. Staff members will be present therefore a WWCC is not compulsory. You can apply for a WWCC online: <https://www.vic.gov.au/how-apply-working-with-children-check>

Tree Removal

You may have noticed that the birch trees on the south side of our school were removed over the term break. We did enjoy these beautiful trees however for OH&S and fire safety reasons we had to have them removed. On a positive note, our classrooms on this side now get more light and we will incur less expense in getting the gutters cleared as well.

Differentiated Teaching at St Ambrose



Focused teaching enables us to meet our students from their point of need.

At St Ambrose, we believe that education isn't "one size fits all." To ensure every child thrives, we utilize Focus Teaching Groups—a targeted approach designed to meet the specific "point of need" for every student in our care.

Rather than teaching the entire class the same concept at the same pace, teachers break the class into smaller, dynamic groups. This allows us to tailor our instruction based on what each student is ready to learn right now. Students are grouped intentionally using recent assessments and daily observations.

The groups are fluid and flexible allowing students to move as they master skills or require new challenges. These smaller settings allow for more student voice and immediate feedback from the teacher. We use this as one method to teach explicitly across the teaching day particularly in our literacy and numeracy blocks.

Child Safety-Cycling to & from School

Unfortunately in the past week there have been two incidents between cars and children on bikes (not St Ambrose students) at the corner of Romsey Road and High St. We have had reports from members of the public that students from both local schools are riding dangerously across that and other busy roads. We ask that if your children are riding to and from school that you please speak with them and remind them of road safety, **especially the importance of getting off their bikes to cross the road.**

We have spoken about this at assembly but need your support to reiterate this at home. If your child is not ready to ride safely to and from school without an adult they should wait until they are able to cross roads safely and ride safely. Thank you everyone.



Transitioning from Seesaw to ClassDojo

We are excited to announce we are transitioning from Seesaw to ClassDojo for sharing and viewing student work. This decision was made to better align with our current school needs and provide a more cost-effective solution for our community.

Please be aware that we encourage all families to use the free version of ClassDojo.

There is no requirement to purchase a subscription or use any paid "Plus" features to stay connected to your child's learning.

Your child's teacher will send home instructions shortly on how to link your account so you can begin viewing their schoolwork. We appreciate your support as we make this change to better showcase our students' achievements.

Yr 5 Sacred Heart College Transition Day

Our year five students enjoyed a fun day of varied activities at SHC this week as part of preparing our students to transition into secondary school.



SRC Update



Alice and Neve are pictured above after sharing a proposal from our SRC that they will present at our next SAC meeting. The SRC would like a skort option for our school uniform.

Introducing our 2026 SAC

The SAC act as an advisory body to the principal. They also offer another avenue for you to have your say at St Ambrose. Pictured below from left to right on each row are our chairperson this year Gerald Sullivan, our Secretary Rilla Healy, Maurice Fanning (parishioner), Paul Daniels, Brad Ellul, Debbie Geisler and Fr. John are also on our SAC. Our members are pictured below. You are welcome to introduce yourself to them.



Parent/Teacher Conversations

Strong partnerships between home and school underpin student success. Our parent-teacher conversations provide opportunity to discuss child's social and academic growth. By sharing insights, we can align our support, and ensure every student feels encouraged both in the classroom and at home. Staying connected ensures we are working together to help your child flourish.

We ask that you book in your time slots for your parent-teacher conversations. You have been notified to do this via Nforma. While we prefer to meet with you face to face, if you require your meeting to be online, book in your time slot then email your child's teacher for a meeting link.

Dogs Should Remain Off-Site



As a community, we love our furry friends! While we enjoy seeing your pets, bringing them onto school premises isn't allowed. Not all children are comfortable or feel safe around animals. Some might have fears or allergies, and unexpected interactions can be stressful or even harmful. We understand that the arrival of a new puppy in a family is exciting for children. A puppy visit can be arranged directly with your child's teacher.



Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published on **Friday 15th May 2026!**

For more news and photos visit our [website](#) and look at latest news by clicking on our [Facebook](#) button.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal

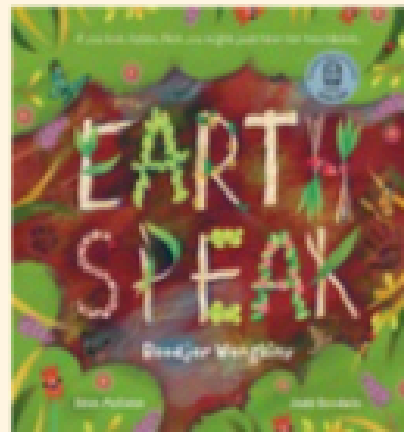


Earth Day IN GRADE 1/2S

APRIL 22ND WAS EARTH DAY AND WAS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH OUR SUSTAINABILITY UNIT BY MAKING PAPER MACHE MODELS OF EARTH TO REMIND US HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO HAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO PROTECT IT.



WE ARE READING LOTS OF PICTURE BOOKS LIKE "EARTH SPEAK" AND "THIS CLASS CAN SAVE THE PLANET" TO HELP TUNE US IN TO WAYS WE CAN BE STEWARDS OF GODS CREATION.



From Our Captains

On Saturday the 25th of April, Eire, Amari and some of our St Ambrose students attended the ANZAC day ceremony at the RSL in Woodend. The March started in front of the Chinese restaurant and Amari and Eire led the march with Ms Geisler. Then we found our spots near the front. After listening to all the amazing stories of the people on the new mural outside the RSL, they called forward everyone who was laying a wreath to place it up the front. After that the school captains Eire and Amari read out there write up about what ANZAC day means to us. It was a great day and lots of fun.



Project Compassion Casual Dress Day

Our faith leaders Ruby Z and Leon G organised our casual dress day to raise money for Project Compassion which is a focus for this time of year. Part of our Catholic social teaching promotes community service and assisting those less fortunate. It was great to see our children arrive in some of their favourite outfits. Our sincere thanks for your generous donations. We will let you know how much we have raised for those in need when we do the final count.

Dragon Mile Success

On Sunday, April 5th, the 39th annual Sandeman Build Dragon Mile, an iconic foot race held along the renowned Bendigo Easter procession route took place. This race draws thousands of enthusiastic spectators, eager to cheer on both local talent and visiting runners. The event also features a Mini-Mile for younger athletes. Deon and Willow S took part representing our school and did a great run. Deon came first and Willow finished 13th overall and 1st for her age. Bravo Deon and Willow!



AROUND THE SCHOOL





1 May Theo T
6 May Max A, Jack J
7 May Elias B
9 May Hettie M
13 May George E

Congratulations!

Prep O Charlie Byrne for his incredible attempt to record sounds and words in his writing

Prep O Mila Diamantopoulos for being helpful and kind in the classroom

Prep O Violet Daley for being a responsible learner and always trying her best and accepting challenges

Prep O Hugo Matricardi for modelling respectful behaviour 100% of the time and always giving everything a go

1/2B Jack Delaney for always working hard, staying focused and showing kindness to others

1/2B Jagger Jones consistently engaging and contributing during Phonics Plus

1/2S Neville G for his kindness towards his peers

1/2S Redmond O for his kindness towards his peers

1/2T Nick Lynch for showing fantastic dedication and perseverance to improve spelling accuracy everyday

1/2T Amy McCarthy for being a kind and thoughtful friend who always makes sure everyone is included

3/4C Agatha Willis for her wonderful contributions in class discussions

3/4C Jack Jones for the amazing effort he is putting into his handwriting

3/4O Baz Renaud for incorporating the weekly vocab into his writing

3/4O Estella Gordon for consistently showing kindness, resilience, respect and responsibility

3/4R Aston James for being a positive and inclusive classmate

3/4R Felicity Finucane for being resilient in her learning and displaying a positive mindset

5/6BM Ryan Killick for always showing respect to both his peers and teachers.

5/6BM Seb Cavric for always working hard to complete all set tasks and for always asking questions to clarify thoughts

5/6JM Angus Nicholson for putting in an outstanding effort during our division unit

5/6JM Billie Higgs for showing excellent research skills in writing

5/6W Annie Dodds for consistently displaying resilience in learning tricky concepts

5/6W Jim Galle for always being responsible with his learning time and setting a great example

PBL Bronze Award - There are so many to name that we simply can't fit them all here, Congratulations Bronze Award winners!

PBL Silver Award - There are so many to name that we simply can't fit them all here, Congratulations Silver Award winners!



Silence The Grump: Helping Kids Reframe Their Inner Critic

THE CORE CONCEPT: COGNITIVE DEFUSION

MOVE FROM "BEING" TO "OBSERVING"

Instead of the child identifying as the thought for example, "I am a failure", they learn to say, "I notice Mr. Grump is telling me that I failed."



REDUCE THE EMOTIONAL "STING"

Creating this space from the thought helps the child stay calm when they feel frustrated or "not good enough." It keeps the mean voice from taking over their whole mood.



3 TOOLS TO REFRAME THE THOUGHT

Wait for the calm: Logic only works once the "storm" has passed and their brain feels safe.



1 NAME & SPOT THE VOICE

Help the child give the unhelpful voice a name (like "The Grump") so they can spot it when it talks. This voice is just an overprotective part of their brain trying to keep them safe.



2 FACT-CHECK THE THOUGHT

When the child makes a broad claim like "I'm bad at math," help them look for some "Evidence For," and then focus on "Evidence Against" that specific thought.



3 USE THE "BEST FRIEND" FILTER

Ask the child what they would say to a best friend in the same situation. This helps them access their natural empathy for themselves.

HOW TO GUIDE THE CONVERSATION



VALIDATE THEN REFRAME

Before moving to the "Fact-Check," acknowledge the emotion. "I can see you're feeling really frustrated. It's okay to feel that way. Let's see what 'Mr. Grump' is telling you about it..."



ADJUST THE VOLUME

Remind them that we don't have to wait for the thought to disappear to move forward: "We don't need Mr. Grump to leave, let's just turn his volume down to a 2 so we can keep practicing."

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS Faith & Family



During 2026 our focus for our community of faith will be based on the image of the Trinity (see our new picture). An image reflecting the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, calling us to be a community of WELCOME and HOSPITALITY.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord,
for the people who have told me about You
and Your wonderful works.
Open my heart to receive Your mercy
and my eyes to see Your goodness.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for May:

That Everyone Might Have Food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo has proclaimed this year as the Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

Ponder:

Where have you encountered Jesus recently?

Parish Bulletin 19 April 2026

Religious Calendar of Events in Term Two, 2026:

Date	Details	Time
Wed, 29th April	Project Compassion Day (Gold coin donation)	
Sat, 2nd May Or Sun, 3rd May	Commissioning Masses for Confirmation	5 pm Or 11 am
Wed, 6th May	Mother's Day Prayer Service	3 pm
Thurs, 7th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting for Parents and Students <i>Venue to follow</i>	6:30
Wed, 13th May	Junior Mass (Grs 1/2)	9:30
Wed, 20th May	Middle Mass (Grs 3/4)	9:30
Fri, 29th May	Sacrament of Confirmation Practice	11:45
Sat, 30th May	Sacrament of Confirmation	1 pm
Wed, 3rd June	Buddies Mass (Grs. P and 5/6)	9:30
Wed, 24th June	End of Term 2 Mass	9:30

Please note:

All are welcome. If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome. Please sit at the back or upstairs to make sure there is room for all the students.

Gospel Reflection: Luke 24:13-35

As with other appearances of the Risen Lord, His followers walking on the road to Emmaus do not immediately recognize Him. They were disappointed and heartbroken at all that had happened to Jesus at the crucifixion. They had heard reports that Jesus was alive. They want to believe it, but they are unsure. You can imagine their conversation as they rehashed all that happened. "Can it be true?" It is only in the breaking of the bread that they come to see that it was truly Jesus and believe that He has risen from the dead. They then share their testimony with others.

We, too, have our moments of doubt. Most of us have heard the stories of Jesus our entire lives. We want to believe. We profess that belief at Sunday Mass in the Nicene Creed. And yet, from time to time, we may wonder, "Can it be true?" The secular world wants us to live as if it isn't, and we can often be criticized for our beliefs. In addition, hard times in our own lives may make us question the reality of God.

Jesus doesn't come and physically take a walk with us. Instead, He speaks to us through Scripture, spiritual reading and/or videos, and the voices of other people. We can encounter Him in the Eucharist and in prayer. He says to us, "Believe in Me," and then asks us to share the witness of that faith with others.

By: Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur (Copyright © 2026 CatholicMom.com. All Rights Reserved)

Sacramental Dates in 2026:

If your child is making one of their Sacraments this year, please note the changes to the calendar below.

Date	Details
2nd & 3rd May	Confirmation Commitment Masses
6th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting @ Holy Cross P.S., New Gisborne
29th May	Confirmation Practice
Saturday, 30th May	Confirmation @ 1 pm (Please note change of time!)
6th August	Eucharist Evening Meeting
22nd & 23rd August	First Eucharist Commitment Masses
10th September	First Eucharist Practice
12th & 13th September	First Eucharist Masses



COMMUNITY NEWS

Kyneton, register for kindergarten by 31 May for 2027!



Register in 2 minutes for free

To be included in first round offers for 2027

We're accepting registrations for 15 kindergartens including:

- Kyneton Community House
- Kyneton Kindergarten
- Bug-a-Lugs Kyneton
- Embracia Childcare and Kindergarten
- Woodend Kindergarten

and many more kindergartens in the shire.

How to Register

Visit: mrscvic.gov.au/kinder-rego or scan the QR code.

Contact us: Kindergarten Enrolment Team on 03 5422 0239 or kinderenrolment@mrscvic.gov.au

Register by 31 May 2026!



Kindergarten Tours

Come and see our council kindergartens

- Kyneton Kindergarten
- Lancefield Children's Centre
- Romsey Kindergarten
- Woodend Kindergarten and more...

Scan QR code for tour dates and times



May 25 - 29 2026
No bookings required!



RANGES STUDIO SPEECH & DRAMATIC ARTS

TERM 2

Educator-led sessions designed to build confidence, creativity, communication and connection.

GISBORNE

MONDAYS

Hub for Kids

10am & 11am –
Tell & Show (1-5 years)

4pm & 5pm –
Speech & Drama (5+ years)

MACEDON

THURSDAYS

Jubilee Hall

10am & 11am –
Tell & Show (1-5 years)

4pm & 5pm –
Speech & Drama (5+ years)

nic@rangesstudio.com.au



rangesstudio.com.au



Woodend Eagles Spots Open



Effort
Attitude
Teamwork

For more information head to :
woodendsoccer.com.au/2026-eoi





COMMUNITY NEWS

WOODEND BOOK FAIR IS BACK!
6-8 JUNE 2026

Alongside 1st Woodend Scouts, we're excited to bring back our annual second-hand book fair.

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED
DROP-OFF COLLECTION DAYS

DATES: 3 & 9 MAY
TIME: 11-2PM
LOCATION: Woodend Scouts Hall (41 Forest Street)

All profits support 1st Woodend Scouts & Woodend Neighbourhood House

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES
FOR PREP TO GRADE 6

ART CLUB FOR KIDS
 Wednesdays
 3.45pm - 5pm

ART CLUB

Creative Yoga
 I am...

CREATIVE YOGA
 Wednesdays
 4pm - 5pm

47 Forest Street, Woodend | woodendnh.org.au | reception@woodendnh.org.au | 5427 1845