



NEWSLETTER

FORTHCOMING EVENTS / REMINDERS

If your child is absent please let us know by calling on 5169 6471 or entering the absence via the uEduateUs app by 8.45am.



Tuesday 5th May	School Council meeting
Friday 8th May	Mother's Day stall
Saturday 23rd May	Conference of the Birds
Tuesday 9th June	School Council meeting
Friday 26th June	Student Free Day—Last day of Term 2

From The Principal's Desk

Term Two has begun smoothly. The students settled back into the school routine well and of course loved catching up with their friends.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Mrs Cascianelli who has become a Grandma. Jax and his mum are doing well, as is Mrs Cascianelli. I'm sure Jax will be loved and spoilt by Mrs Cascianelli and family.

We have begun our practices for Conference of the Birds on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The children love working with Margie and Gilbert. Conference of the Birds will be performed on Saturday the 23rd of May. Their first performance will be at approximately 3.30pm in the Railway Park and their second at 6.15pm in The Meadows. More detailed information will be sent out next week. We are hoping most students will be able to participate in the performance as rehearsals are part of our delivery of The Arts curriculum. Performing is an important element of this as it gives the rehearsals a purpose.



ANZAC DAY DAWN CEROMONY

Several of our student leaders attended the Anzac Day Ceremony at Boolarra. Ava, Gewalin and Jake laid a wreath on behalf of our school community.



ANZAC Dawn Service - by Connor & Richie, Gr 2-6

On the 25th of April, 2026, the ANZACS from war were remembered and respected. Some soldiers were killed in battle. Some came home. They will never be forgotten.

At the Service, a nice lady called out the names of ANZACS that lost their lives too soon. In the war, they fought for our country. They respected us, so we went to their memorial to do the same for them. We love what they did so we respect them.

Families lost their dads. Families lost their sons. Families even lost their daughters.

It is very sad what has happened to them. They have been loved everyday for what they did for us.

by Connor & Richie, Gr 2-6

CROSS COUNTRY

Our 2026 Cross Country Sports Day was a huge success. The day could not have been more perfect, the sun shone and The Rail Trail provided a stunning environment for the students to test out their endurance. Their were smiles, red faces as well as plenty of huff 'n puff'n.

Below are some of the students recollections of the day.

Cross Country Run - by Jake, Ethan, Jackson & Azaleah

At Boolarra Primary School, we had our Cross Country Run this week.

We did the cross country run at Boolarra Rail Trail. We had three groups running; Under 13s, Under 10s and Under 7s. After the run, we had a fun play in the park.

The Cross Country Run was very long. Some of us got very puffed-out. I got very puffed. Other students ran for ages.

The students in the Run who are going on to the next level are Zed and Jake. We all enjoyed it but it was really good for the people who won. The 11-13 year olds ran 3km, the 8-10s ran 2km and the F/1/2s ran 700 meters.

We had lots of fun doing the

Cross Country Run this year!



Every Day Counts The importance of regular school attendance.

At **Boolarra Primary School**, we prioritise regular school attendance. We will work with families to ensure students are in class with their peers and teachers and enjoying all the benefits that brings.

Attending school every day means experiencing what counts – the learning, friendship, fun and opportunities that can shape your child's future.

Last **year**, showed a 6 % increase in student absence. We would love to turn this around to ensure students have every opportunity to learn and grow their knowledge and skills. If a student is not here, they are missing out on vital learning. Teachers scaffold learning ensuring that new knowledge builds on existing knowledge. Although teachers and Education Support Staff do their best to catch students up, being at school is more impactful.

We understand that there are times when your child will need to miss school but to ensure minimal disruption to their education, please consider scheduling family holidays or medical/dental appointments outside of school time. If your child is well enough to attend but is worried about friendships, schoolwork or exams, please encourage them to come to school. Avoiding school can make these feelings worse and can create a negative pattern of behaviour.

If your child is having difficulty attending school, talk to their teacher, Sue or Patrick about getting support.

We know that parents and carers can be juggling challenges daily to get your children to school. If your child must miss school, notify us as soon as possible via uEducateUs. Encourage your child upon their return to ask the teachers if they missed work so we can work together to support them.

For more information about the importance of everyday attendance, see [Attendance and Missing School](#).

Remember, **Every Day Counts**.

KURNAI AWARENESS DAY

I had the pleasure of accompanying the years five/six students to Kunai (Churchill Campus) last Tuesday. We had a lovely day and the school was very welcoming. Students participated in a variety of activities including humanities, English where we learnt about spoonerisms, maths and patterns, sports and cooking in which we made a delicious treat of chocolate coconut balls.



Child safety and wellbeing at Boolarra Primary School: information for families and the school community

Boolarra Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework is located on our website: www.boolarra.vic.edu.au/page/200/Child-Safety explains how we support and maintain child safety and wellbeing at Boolarra Primary School. It includes our:

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Child abuse (including grooming) – identification and response, and

Child Safety Code of Conduct, which outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for all staff and volunteers at our school.

Our students and families are important partners in providing a child safe environment. These regular newsletter reminders are one of the ways we ensure our school community is aware of:

our commitment to child safety, and

how to provide feedback or raise child safety concerns.

If you have any concerns about child safety at any time, please contact Susan Duncan or Patrick Kilday on 5169 6471. Any child safety complaints or concerns are treated seriously. For more information about our school's complaints process, see our Complaints Policy on our website.

We also welcome your ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing. If you have any suggestions or comments please contact Susan Duncan or Patrick Kilday on 5169 6471 or e-mail at Boolarra.ps@education.vic.gov.au

New policy CHILD ABUSE (INCLUDING GROOMING) – IDENTIFICATION AND RESPONSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The purpose of this policy is to:

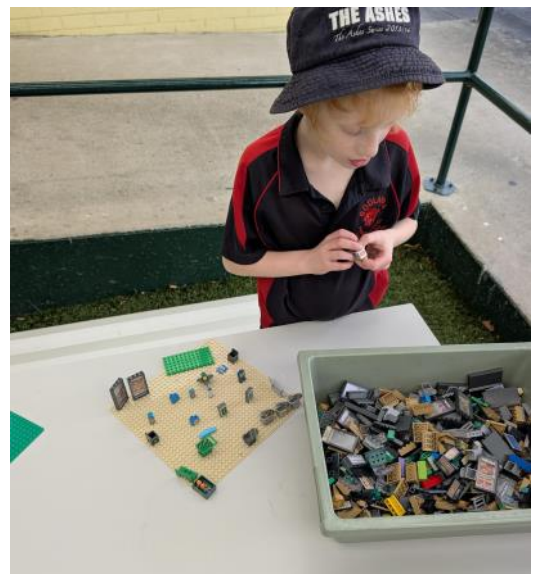
- describe how staff at Boolarra Primary School identify and respond to child safety concerns and child abuse following the 4 Critical Actions
- ensure our staff and school community raise concerns about child abuse.

A copy of this policy is attached to the back of this newsletter.

AROUND THE ROOMS

F-2 Class

Playtime fun with F-2s!! There are so many different things that we can do at lunchtime. It is no wonder that is our favourite time of day!



AROUND THE ROOMS

2-6 Class

Term 2 started off busy and bright, with some very fortunate days of radiant Autumn sunshine and beautiful blue skies to welcome us back to school.

Margie, Gilbert and Garielle have started rehearsals for Conference of the Birds, at school. Their sessions have been held with the whole school getting together to practise interpretations of different birds, which will be incorporated into the overall performance.

During our first week back at school, we also had the school's annual 3 km Cross Country Run, which was a lot of fun. Jake and Zed qualified to represent our school at the next level of competition. Unfortunately, Jake was unable to attend the next qualifying round, but Zed has gone on to participate in the competition today, Friday 1st May. Good luck Zed, and well done Jake and everyone for participating in our 3 km run.

Our School Captains Jake, Ava and Gewalin also represented Boolarra Primary School on Saturday, 25th April at the town War Memorial to commemorate our local ANZAC soldiers. Ava laid a wreath of remembrance on behalf of the whole school.



AROUND THE ROOMS

Specialist Classes

Cross Country

Last week we held our cross country event. The weather was very kind to us, and we had a beautiful day to take a run along the rail trail. All our students did a great job, either running their best or supporting each other. Our 11/12/13 years students ran 3 kilometres. Ava was the 1st of this age group to cross the line, followed by Richie in 2nd and Lacey and Emma drawing for 3rd. The 8/9/10 years students ran 2 kilometres. Jake was 1st across the line for the 8/9/10 years students followed by Zed in 2nd and Harry in 3rd. The F/1/2s ran 750 meters. This was won by Oscar, with Liam in 2nd and Blake in 3rd. We finished the event with a play in the railway park. Jake and Zed will represent our school at the Yinnar and District Cross Country event on Friday the 1st of May as they both finished their run in a time that qualified them for the next level of competition. Thank you to all our staff and students for helping make this event a success and while also being lots of fun. A very big thank you to our volunteers who came to help out on the day, Steve, Honey, Stacey, Matilda, Craig and Jazmine.

The Arts- Conference of the Birds

Our focus for Arts lessons for the next 5 weeks will be preparing for our performance at Conference of the Birds. Conference of the Birds is a free, one night only community-based art-walk along the Grandridge Rail Trail. Created in collaboration with First Nations peoples, artists & the broader community the event celebrates the beautiful bird-life on lands we call home.

Boolarra Primary Students will be studying with Gilbert, Margie & Garryelle to create both the beginning & the finale for Conference of the Birds on Saturday the 23rd May. Students are learning dance, song & lantern making.

We hope that your child will be available to perform at Railway Park & the Meadows (either or both). This project is an opportunity for them to build pride in their community connections, talents & confidence as part of a growing large scale local community event. More details will be provided closer to the event. Please add Saturday the 23rd May to your diary as we look forward to sharing this event with you.

Conference of the Birds

ART WALK

Saturday 23rd May

Walk starts at 2:30pm
Railway Park, Boolarra

Installations, Storytelling, Music & Performances lead you thro 7 mysterious valleys along the Grandridge Rail Trail to The Meadows.

Free Community Celebration & Bonfire

5:30 - 7pm at The Meadows

Times for each Valley

2:30 - 2:40	The Gathering & storytelling
2:45 - 3:20	Valley of the Quest
3:30 - 4pm	Valley of Love
3:45 - 4:15	Valley of Astonishment & Bewilderment
4:00 - 4:30	Valley of Detachment
4:25 - 4:55	Valley of Poverty & Nothingness
4:45 - 5:15	Valley of Insight into Mystery
5:00 - 5:30	Valley of Harmony & Unity

Each Valley after The Quest offers a performance that is roughly 5 - 8 mins in length & will be repeated over 30min timeslot - travel on to the next valley once you have seen 1 cycle. Times are approximate.

WHAT TO BRING:
Dress warmly, wear walking shoes, bring a torch & something to sit on. The walk is approx 2km long & you can choose your own pace. Food Trucks & Hot Drinks at the Meadows.

ACCESS:
For those with access needs, book a seat on the shuttle bus - bookings are essential.

visit our website for more info

D&M ART PROJECTS
www.douglasandmackay.com
e: douglasandmackay@inet.net.au

Students of the Week



Students of the Week

Week 1 Term 2 F/1/2 Charlie For showing great aspiration and engagement in your reading		Week 1 Term 2 Grade 2-6 Ethan For being proud of your work about our Anzac Soldiers & sharing it with the rest of the class	
Week 2 Term 2 F/1/2 Dante For your great work in Sounds-Write		Week 2 Term 2 Grade 2-6 Emma B For always being friendly & kind to everyone. For having a great sense of humour.	

Positive Yard Behaviour

Congratulations to the following students.

You have demonstrated our school values out in the Yard:

Students can choose an item
from our prize box



May

We hope these students have a brilliant time celebrating becoming one year older. Happy Birthday from all of us at Boolarra PS!

Gewalin Aria Emma Scarlett Blake

Maths Achievement Awards

Week 1 Term 2

F/1/2

Banjo

Week 1 Term 2

Grade 2-6

Connor



Week 2 Term 2

F/1/2

Sadie

Week 2 Term 2

Grade 2-6

Jackson



Congratulations to Granny Barb and Ava for winning the Easter Basket Raffle last term.



Thank you!

- Mr and Mrs Black for our Wednesday breakfasts
- Thank you to all our volunteers who came to help on our Cross Country Day Steve, Honnee, Stacey, Matilda, Craig and Jazmine.
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JUST A REMINDER.....

If your child is absent

Please let us know by calling on 5169 6471 or entering the absence via the uEducateUs app by 8.45am.

Thank you



We are currently taking **enrolments for 2027**. If you know of potential eligible students encourage them to come for a school tour by making an appointment.



nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

YINNAR AUSKICK CENTRE

JUMBULK ROAD OVAL
THURSDAYS | 4:30PM - 5:30PM
 Starting Thursday April 23rd 2026



AFL PLAY

Travel free



West Street
on Glenroy Road

Under 18s travel free on all public transport with a Youth myki



Buy a Youth myki

VICTORIA
Government

PT

Transport Victoria

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 3 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Federation University

Community Wellness Centre

Federation University's Community Wellness Centre at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre (GRAC) provides supervised allied health services, working closely with the community, experienced staff and allied health students.

Allied Health professionals help people manage a wide range of conditions that affect movement, communication, breathing, swallowing, balance and everyday activities, supporting improved independence and quality of life.

The Community Wellness Centre at GRAC is a student-led health service currently offering physiotherapy services, supported by qualified, practising Allied Health professionals.

The Centre will soon offer speech pathology and occupational therapy services to the community.

How can I access the service?

We welcome referrals from General Practitioners, Allied Health Providers, Community Health Services and self-referrals from community members. Please see the QR code and contact details below.




Scan to access the referral form

cwcreception@federation.edu.au

03 5122 6002

Open Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm

Third and fourth year Federation University Allied Health students deliver this service as part of their studies, supported by qualified, practising Allied Health professionals.

Scan the QR code (right) to learn more about Federation University's Community Clinics and services.



CRICOS 001003 | RTO 4906 | TEGSA P612151 (April 2016)



CHILD ABUSE (INCLUDING GROOMING) – IDENTIFICATION AND RESPONSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Principal.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- describe how staff at Boolarra Primary School identify and respond to child safety concerns and child abuse following the 4 Critical Actions
- ensure our staff and school community raise concerns about child abuse.

Scope

This policy applies to any concern of child abuse or reportable conduct:

- by any adult engaged by the school or school council or any other adult while connected to the school environment (including e.g. staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers and visitors)
- between students
- towards students by members of their family
- towards students by members of the community.

Child abuse and reportable conduct can occur in any physical or online environment and include grooming.

Definitions

There are many types of child abuse. For more information, see Types of child abuse and what to look for and Child Safety Definitions.

Child abuse includes:

- any act committed against a child involving a sexual offence or grooming
- physical violence against a child
- serious emotional or psychological harm against a child
- serious neglect of a child.

Grooming is a criminal offence under the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) and is a form of child abuse and sexual misconduct. It is also a form of Reportable Conduct. The offence of grooming is when an adult engages in predatory conduct to prepare a child or young person under the age of 16 for future sexual activity. This can be with the groomer or with another adult. Grooming can occur face-to-face, online or a combination of both.

Grooming behaviour can involve the use of a variety of manipulative and controlling techniques. These can be used to build trust or normalise sexually harmful behaviour.

Reportable Conduct includes:

- a sexual offence committed against, with or in the presence of a child
- sexual misconduct committed against, with or in the presence of a child
- physical violence committed against, with or in the presence of a child
- behaviour causing significant emotional or psychological harm to a child
- significant neglect of a child

by any adult working or volunteering at our school including any employees, volunteers or contractors.

For further information see: Reportable and Notifiable Conduct Policy.

Policy

Everyone at Boolarra Primary School has an important role to:

- prevent child abuse (including grooming) in our school or during school activities
- identify and respond to concerns of child abuse using the 4 Critical Actions – based on the source of abuse:
 - by [an adult engaged by the school](#)
 - between [students](#)
 - in the [family](#)
 - in [the community](#).

Boolarra Primary School follows the Department of Education policies on the Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- Child abuse (including grooming) – identification and response
- Student to Student Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Reportable and Notifiable Conduct [policy](#).

Boolarra Primary School has other policies that are part of our child safety framework and describe actions we take to ensure students are safe and feel safe to raise a complaint. These include:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Complaints Policy.

These policies are available on our school website at Boolarra Primary School Website .

Procedure for responding to an incident, disclosure, or allegation of child abuse

All staff at our school must use the 4 Critical Actions to identify and respond to child abuse. The 4 Critical Actions are:

- Identify child abuse
- Support students in the school
- Refer student to community services
- Report abuse to authorities.

At all times all staff must:

- Respond to an emergency
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Document [their actions](#).

All staff must follow the 4 Critical Actions - based on the source of abuse:

- 4 Critical Actions to identify and respond to child abuse by an adult engaged by the school
 - Any allegation, complaint, disclosure or concern of abuse (including grooming) by an adult engaged by a school may be reportable conduct under Victoria's Reportable Conduct Scheme and **must be reported**.
- 4 Critical Actions to identify and respond to [student-to-student abuse](#)
 - As soon as you form a reasonable belief that a student has been, or is at risk of being, abused by another student **you must act**.
- 4 Critical Actions to identify and respond to child abuse [in the family](#)
 - As soon as you form a reasonable belief that a student has been, or is at risk of being, abused by someone in the family **you must act**.
- 4 Critical Actions to identify and respond to child abuse [in the community](#).
 - As soon as you form a reasonable belief that a student has been, or is at risk of being, abused by someone in the community **you must act**.

Our school follows detailed guidance on the 4 Critical Actions for each source of abuse on the PROTECT website.

This includes guidance on how to respond to a [disclosure](#) of child abuse made by a student or young person in a trauma-informed way and provide appropriate support, including suggested language to use.

To ensure the 4 Critical Actions are followed, staff must immediately notify one of our school's relevant child safety nominated contacts on becoming aware that a student is, or may be, experiencing child abuse (including grooming).

Our child safety nominated contacts are listed in the table below. Our school's child safety nominated contacts work with staff and school leadership to provide oversight and ensure:

- child safety concerns are taken seriously

- the school's response is prompt and thorough
- the relevant 4 Critical Actions and PROTECT guidance are followed.

Anyone can contact these staff about a child safety concern. This includes students, parents/carers, volunteers, or anyone else in the school community who has concerns about child abuse including grooming.

Role	Name	Phone
Principal	Susan Duncan	0351696471
Principal	Patrick Kilday	0351696471
Mental Health and Wellbeing Teacher	Christina Larrad	0351696471

Escalating concerns

Following the 4 Critical Actions ensures that our staff take all the necessary steps where there is a concern about abuse, including grooming. If any staff member is concerned that these processes have not been followed they must:

- raise their concerns with the principal and escalate to the regional office via 1800 338 663 or email enquiries@education.vic.gov.au if they remain unsatisfied
- report concerns to the appropriate authorities (e.g. Victoria Police or Child Protection) in line with the 4 Critical Actions.

Reporting concerns about child safety contacts or school leadership

To report any allegations or concerns of abuse including grooming about a listed child safety contact, notify the principal.

To report any allegations or concerns of abuse including grooming by a principal, please contact:

- Department of Education
 - Anyone can contact the Department of Education.
 - Email: enquiries@education.vic.gov.au
 - Phone: 1800 338 663
 - For more information see: Report abuse if you're a current student.
- Department of Education Speak Up service
 - Staff can use the Speak Up service to report improper conduct, fraud or corruption (including to make an anonymous report) or other improper conduct.
 - Website: <https://www.pkftalkintegrity.com/?det>
 - Email: educationspeakup@pkf.com.au
 - Phone 1800 633 462.

Meeting our legal obligations

Our staff must take reasonable steps to minimise risks of harm to students in their care that is reasonably foreseeable. For further information see: PROTECT child safety frameworks and legal obligations.

Further information on relevant child safety frameworks and legal obligations is in **Appendix 1**.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community. It may be:

- published on our school's website
- included in staff induction processes and annual staff training
- communicated to the school community through school newsletters or our electronic student management system
- included in volunteer induction processes and training for relevant volunteers
- discussed in annual staff briefings or meetings
- made available in hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Further information and RESOURCES

The following Department of Education policies and guidance are relevant to this policy:

- PROTECT
- Child Safe Standards

- Reportable [and Notifiable Conduct Policy](#)
- Child abuse (including grooming) – [identification and response](#)
- Student [to-student abuse and harmful sexual behaviour](#)
- Managing and Reporting School Incidents
- [Duty of Care](#)
- Restraint and Seclusion

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	29/04/2026
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 2027

APPENDIX 1: CHILD SAFETY FRAMEWORKS AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

This policy ensures compliance with child safety frameworks and our legal obligations and our school's duty of care obligations. These include:

Child Safe Standards: Victoria's Child Safe Standards help schools create and maintain a child-safe organisation and protect children and young people from harm and abuse. All Victorian schools and school boarding premises must comply with Ministerial Order 1359. Ministerial Order 1359 sets out the actions schools must take to implement the Child Safe Standards.

Reportable Conduct Scheme: The Reportable Conduct Scheme is a child safety mechanism that provides central oversight of how organisations respond to allegations of reportable conduct by a person engaged by the school.

Information sharing: Victorian schools can share confidential information under the Information Sharing Schemes, including the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS). Under CISS, schools can share relevant information about any person to promote the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children. Under FVISS, schools can share relevant information to assess or manage risk of family violence.

Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management for family violence (MARAM): MARAM sets a consistent, shared approach across Victoria's service system to identify and respond to family violence. The FVISS enables schools to meet their obligations under MARAM.

Mandatory reporting: If a mandatory reporter, while doing their job, forms a belief on reasonable grounds that:

- a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of physical and/or sexual abuse and
- the child's parents have not protected or are unlikely to protect the child from harm of that type

this must be reported to Child Protection as soon as practicable.

Failure to disclose offence: All adults must report to Victoria Police if they have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child in Victoria.

Failure to protect offence: The offence applies where there is a substantial risk that a child under the age of 16 under the care, supervision or authority of a relevant organisation will become a victim of a sexual offence committed by an adult associated with that organisation. A person in a position of authority in the organisation will commit the offence if they know of the risk of abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.

Further information about these legal obligations is available from:

- Child Safety [Frameworks and Legal Obligations](#)
- Department of Education Policy and Advisory Library:
 - Child abuse (including grooming) – identification and response
 - Reportable and Notifiable Conduct.