Wycheproof P-12 College

A State school established in 1876

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www.wychep12.vic.edu.au

Newsletter 1 - Thursday, February 5

Welcome Back to Term 1, 2026

We are very excited this year to be celebrating 150 years of education in Wycheproof. What a remarkable achievement for a small little community. Of course, there were many little schools and communities around Wycheproof back then.

We were delighted that Prof Milburn agreed to kick off our celebrations with an informal conversation with our students about the history of schools (and communities), surrounding Wycheproof. It was also great for students to meet a published author and someone who speaks positively about his schooling experiences and his love of writing.

We are also delighted to welcome Brittany Allan to our school, someone who is well known to our students and community. Britt will be mainly teaching primary classes.

Please come and see us if there are any concerns that you have throughout the year. We cannot fix issues that we don't know about.

Code Red Days

We are a Category 4 School (rating in Emergency Management) which will mean that on a **Code Red Day** our school will be closed. No buses will run. Generally, we will know a couple of days in advance if this is likely to occur, but it will be determined usually by 1pm the day before. No one is to be on-site if that occurs. Even on **extreme weather days** we still need to be very alert as to what is happening. If a **Code Red Day** is declared we may need to get students out quickly. If they are on camp, we may need to cancel, or even, keep students there an extra day (if they are supposed to be travelling out that day). Of course, excursions will not take place on a **Code Red Day** and even on an extreme weather day, we may decide to cancel an excursion. Our climate is changing and becoming hotter, and the wind can be very gusty. Notices will also be sent out via XUNO and hopefully there will be enough warning that we can tell students during the day. If this occurs on a weekend, no-one will be allowed on school grounds and the gym will be closed. In the case of any **emergency** the school will communicate with parents via XUNO messages.

School Council Elections

Constitution: 6 parents, 1 community, 3 DE, 2 students (12 members in total)
We thank our 2025 School Council members for their assistance and guidance throughout last year. They were: Brett Thompson (School Council President), parent members Donna Egan; Mel Waters; Stuart Nicholls (Vice President); and Georgina Morrison (Treasurer). Catherine Grant, Claire Ison and Christine McKersie were our DE Members and our two Student Members were Savannah Nicholls and Keely Allan and Whitney Jones was our co-opted Community Member. There was 1 parent member vacancy in 2025.
School Council is an important body of the school organisation and is responsible for the operations of the school. We sincerely thank outgoing members Stuart Nicholls and Mel Waters, who are no longer eligible to be on School Council as you must have a child currently attending school to be a parent member. Brett Thompson will need to re-nominate as terms are for two years and we have one parent vacancy from last year. All student members (Savannah Nicholls, Keely Allan and Whitney Jones) are no longer eligible. Again, we greatly thank all of our 2025 School Council Members for their support of our school over many years. Their input was invaluable.
This year we are seeking 4 parent members to re-nominate or join our School Council. We also require 1 DE representative, 2 student members and 1 Community Member. If there are more nominations than positions, we are required to have an election.
Nomination forms can be found in this Newsletter or, please call into the office or, ask your child to bring one home for you.
Nominations close Thursday, February 19th at 4pm.

Principal's report continued inside...

TERM 1 DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Fri	6	House Swimming Carnival
Mon-Fri	9-13	Week 2 Swimming Program
Wed	11	School Council Meeting
Mon-Fri	16-20	Week 3 Swimming Program
Wed	19	Mallee Family Care Consent Workshops
Mon-Fri	23-27	Week 4 Swimming Program
Tue	24	NCD Swimming - Boort
Tues	24	Yr 9 Morrisby Profiling

MARCH

Mon-Fri	2-6	Week 5 Swimming Program
Wed	4	School Photo Day
Thurs	5	NCD Triathlon -Boort
Mon	9	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues-Fri	10-13	Week 6 Swimming Program
Tues	10	LMR Swimming Swan Hill
Wed-Fri	11-13	NAPLAN
Wed	18	Parent Teacher Interviews
Wed	18	School Council Meeting

APRIL

Wed	1	Casual Clothes Day (Yr 11 Work Experience Fundraiser)
Thurs	2	Last Day of Term 1 - 2.30pm finish

HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL!

FRIDAY, FEB 6th

WYCHEPROOF SWIMMING POOL

9.30AM START | FAMILY & SPECTATORS WELCOME | BBQ LUNCH AVAILABLE

2026 STUDENT LEADERS

School Captains

Jessie Fawcett & Angus Cowell

Vice Captains

Libby Thompson & Ruby Ison

Broadway House Captains

Max Fawcett & Libby Thompson

Calder House Captains

Jack Cowell & Dane Bartram

School Council Members

Lana Fawcett, Grace McKersie & Priya Coatsworth

SRC President

Grace McKersie

Music Captains

Kelly Hogan & Mitchell Coatsworth

2026 STUDENT LEADERS

Year 9/10 Class Captains

Logan Pollington & Harry Humphreys

Year 7/8 Class Captains

Jewels Barton & Chevy Bartlett

Year 5/6 Class Captains

Ryder Harrison & Leeah Crawford

Year 2/3/4 Class Captains

Henry Pardella & Cooper Allan

Prep/1 Class Captains

Scottie Allan & Sadie Cunningham

2026 PREPS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

BLAIR ALLAN

FRANK BRENNAN

HARRIET CUNNINGHAM

TEACHER: MRS COATSWORTH

LOLA DURIE

CONNOR HARRISON

HARRIET LORD

PADDY THOMPSON

TOMMY TURNER

Sesquicentennial celebrations begin!

Wycheproof P–12 College launched its 150-year celebrations with a special history lesson from Prof Milburn on Friday 30th January. Prof, author of a book on Wycheproof's evolution, shared stories of schooling and community life in earlier times. Students enjoyed chatting with Prof and learning about the people and events that have shaped their town, finishing the celebration with a special luncheon. Throughout 2026, WP-12 will host a series of events to honour 150 years of learning, community and shared pride in Wycheproof. Prof is pictured above with Vice Captains Ruby Ison and Libby Thompson and School Captains Jessie Fawcett and Angus Cowell.

2025 Dux Keely Allan returns to share VCE advice

2026 School Captains Jessie Fawcett and Angus Cowell with 2025 Wycheproof P-12 College Dux Keely Allan.

It has become tradition at Wycheproof P-12 College for the Dux of the previous year to come and speak to students about their experiences completing the VCE. Keely Allan spoke to Year 9-12 students on Tuesday 3rd February. Keely is about to commence her tertiary studies at RMIT in Melbourne studying Business Professional Practice. Keely shared some advice with the group such as: complete work at your desk and eat with others on the couch in the Year 12 room, wear noise-cancelling headphones to enable you to concentrate and plan your day to be productive using a diary. Keely used an app called 'Focus Tree' to help her concentrate and prevent notifications from her phone from distracting her.

Keely didn't advise the use of AI, because if you are totally reliant on it, then it will affect your performance at the end of the year.

Keely applied widely for scholarships and was successful in receiving a Youthrive scholarship. Keely managed to have a school, sport, work and social life balance. Keely is looking forward to living in Melbourne and meeting new people.

School captain Angus Cowell thanked Keely for her presentation and the advice that she shared with the students and presented her with a WP-12 coffee mug.

2026 YEAR LEVEL COORDINATORS

PREP/1	MRS NIKKI COATSWORTH
YR 2/3/4	MISS TARYN SMITH
YR 5/6	MISS TARYN SMITH
YR 7/8	MISS GEORGA MUNRO-FOORD
YR 9/10	MISS DEVON BENNETT
YR 11/12	MRS CLAIRE ISON

School General Assembly

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING
8:50AM - 9:05AM
PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Arriving Late/ Leaving Early

Students who arrive late to school or plan on leaving early MUST have a signed note (in their diary/XUNO absence notification), and must sign in or out using the 'Sign In & Sign Out' book located in the office.

2026 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:
• **A mandated elected Parent category**. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education (DE) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
• **A mandated elected DE employee category**. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
• **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DE employees are not eligible to be Community members.
The **term of office for all members is two years**. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:
• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, **you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category**. DE employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
• Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• Consider standing for election to council this year
• Be sure to vote in the elections (if there is one that occurs at our school – that is, if the number of nominations outnumbers the number of vacancies).
Contact the principal for further information.

	EVENT	DATE
a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Thursday 5th February 2026
b)	Closing date for nomination	Thursday 19th February 2026 at 4pm
c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominations will be posted	Friday 20th February 2026
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if needed – that is more nominations received than positions vacant)	On or before Thursday, 26th February 2026
e)	Close of ballot	Thursday 5th March, 2026
f)	Vote count	6/3/2026
g)	Declaration of ballot	10/3/2026
h)	Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	18/3/2026
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	18/3/2026

Christine McKersie
- Principal

PREP/ONE ENGLISH CLASSROOM HAPPY SNAPS!

BLAIR, TOMMY & CONNOR

ATHENA, BLAIR, TOMMY & CONNOR

FRANK & HARRIET C

HARRIET L

LOLA & PADDY

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' privacy policy and the Schools' privacy collection notice, found on our school website. Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in eleven community languages:

- **Amharic**
- **Arabic**
- **Chinese**
- **Dari**
- **Gujarati**
- **Mandarin**
- **Somali**
- **Sudanese**
- **Turkish**
- **Urdu**
- **Vietnamese**

TERM 1, 2026

SWIMMING TIMETABLE

WEEK 2 – Mon 9th Feb – Fri 13th Feb

- Prep-4: Mon, Tues, Wed (no preps) and Thurs
- Year 5/6: Monday and Tuesday
- Year 7/8: Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 9/10: Friday
- VCE: Wednesday

WEEK 3 – Mon 16th Feb – Fri 20th Feb

- Year 5/6: Monday and Tuesday
- Year 7/8: Thursday
- Year 9/10: Friday
- VCE: Wednesday

WEEK 4 – Mon 23rd Feb – Fri 27th Feb

- Year 5/6: Monday and Tuesday
- Year 7/8: Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 9/10: Friday
- VCE: Wednesday

WEEK 5 – Mon 2nd March – Fri 6th March

- Year 5/6: Monday and Tuesday
- Year 7/8: Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 9/10: Friday
- VCE: Wednesday

WEEK 6 – Mon 9th March – Fri 13th March

- Year 5/6: Monday and Tuesday
- Year 7/8: Wednesday & Thursday
- Year 9/10: Friday
- VCE: Wednesday

Prep-Year 4 students have enjoyed playing games at the end of their lessons during Week 1 of the swim program.

Uniforms

The school uniform is compulsory for all students.

SHOES: Students are to wear black enclosed school shoes or black runners.

SPORTS UNIFORM:
P-4 students are permitted to wear the school sports top to school on the designated PE days.
Yrs 5-12 students are expected to change into their sports uniform for their PE lesson only.

HATS: ($11 - available from the office)
During Term 1 & 4, children are required to wear a blue, broad brimmed school hat whenever outdoors.

** Please ensure clothing items are clearly named to help with returning 'Lost Property' to its rightful owner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS - SUPERVISED HOURS

Wycheproof P12 College's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.35am until 3.20pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students unless special arrangements have been made with school staff.

Students and families are encouraged to regularly read our school policies found on our school website. We thank all our School Council members who spend many hours regularly reviewing our school policies. We invite and welcome feedback relating to these policies and other school procedures.

HEALTH HUB with Jacinta

Welcome
Welcome to all our school community students and teachers.
To start the new school our health focus will be on some great areas this term.
First up is **National Lunchbox Week** from February 9 to 13. During the week we will test some great tastes and recipes. Students are encouraged to bring foods that are not in disposable packaging. See attached a poster for your fridge with some great lunchbox ideas.
Tuesday 10 February is **Safer Internet Day**. Promoting safe internet use includes how we communicate with all people online in all platforms from emails, to chats, to gaming and information sharing. There is great advice and information on the eSafety Commissioner website https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid
In March we will focus on Epilepsy with information and health promotion activities around Epilepsy First Aid.

Health Action Plans
A reminder that updated medical advice is due in February. That includes management plans for asthma, anaphylaxis or other conditions. The Education Department requires schools to have health support plans for all student with a health or medical diagnosis. If you need action plan or medical advice forms, please contact the school office.

Meals on Wheels
Students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 are encouraged to volunteer to the Meals on Wheels program. Meals on Wheels delivers lunch to elderly residents around Wycheproof every Thursday from 11.30am-12.30pm. Drivers are Paddy Eccles and Jacinta Miller, and the school car is usually used. Student volunteers are on a roster and commitment may be as little as once a term.

Sun Smart
Sun protection is important whenever we are outside. Remember Slip on long sleeves, Slop on sunscreen, Slap on a hat, Seek shade and Slide on sunglasses.

Wellbeing team: support at school
The Secondary School Nurse program is available to all secondary students and you don't need a referral. The school nurse is employed by the Department of Education and is in your school to support student health and wellbeing. Call in to the Health Hub office for a confidential chat.
Chantel White is our school's Mental Health Practitioner. For referrals to Chantel, students can talk to members of the Wellbeing Team or their teacher.
headspace Swan Hill provide a service to students at Wycheproof P-12 College. To link in with Emily Noonan phone (03) 4010 7100, or to make a referral see https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/swan-hill/

Support services & helplines
- Autism Connect helpline 1300 308 699 or webchat www.amaze.org.au
- Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
- Parent Portal https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/family-and-child click the link Parenting support Victoria
- 1800 RESPECT, family violence helpline: 1800 737 732

Mental Health Practitioner

Welcome to new and returning students and families for 2026. This year I will be available for student counselling in-person on Thursdays and via telehealth on Fridays. Parents can refer their Year 7-12 student by contacting the school. Students can also self refer by speaking with a trusted staff member or dropping into my office.
I will be running workshops in Term 1 and 2 for our VCE students on stress management and study skills and this year will be working with the Year 7 & 8 students to build their awareness and skills across a range of wellbeing areas.
Please feel free to contact the school if you want to have a chat with me about your child's wellbeing and mental health.

- Chantel White

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Service
Allie Collyer (pictured below) will visit Wycheproof P-12 College on Wednesday 18th February to provide primary and secondary students with brief information about healthy relationships, online safety and the green and red flags to look out for. The main content is about the new 'affirmative consent' laws and the importance of knowing this information. Allie is the Community Legal Education Worker for the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre. The Centre provides free and confidential legal help to people who live, work or study in the Murray Mallee region.

The service offers :
- Legal information and referrals to other services when needed
- Legal advice and representation to eligible clients
- Advocacy and support services.

Mallee Kids and the Law program aims to educate young people on a variety of legal issues early on so that young people will be more informed around their rights and responsibilities. This project can provide legal education, advice and link young people with the state-wide service YOUTHLAW.

Legal issues young people may be faced with could include family violence and personal safety, cyber bullying; and, for secondary students understanding rights and responsibilities at work, legal issues with underage consensual sex, dealing with fines, debt and meaning of signing contracts.

More photos from Year 9 Surf Camp (2025)

Surf Camp was held during the last week of Term 4, 2025. Over three big days, Year 9 students (along with Mr Duffy and Miss McKersie) threw themselves into the adventure - catching waves during surfing lessons, tackling trails on mountain bikes, and taking on the rock climbing wall. A delicious Thai dinner was another highlight for students. This year the Year 9s and 10s will be going on Snow Camp to Falls Creek in Term 3.

home economics

Please sign and return all forms sent home on the first day of school ASAP.

XUNO App.

The Xuno App is used for communication between the school and parents/carers. All parents/carers are advised to download this FREE App onto their mobile device. Please contact the office if you need help to reset your password or installing the app.

Notifications and information available from the App include:-

* Activities and dates for the school calendar
* Reminders
* Cancellations of activities/events
* Up to date times for students returning from excursions.
* Parents/Carers can advise of student absence
* Parent/Carer permissions for excursions, day trips and sports events
* Student Semester Reports historical
* Student Class Timetables

XUNO FAMILY

Year 7/8 Home Eco students made honey joys this week. Pictured are Jewels and Chevy.

Career Education Partnership (CEP)

Fiona Hall, from the North Central LLEN, is the new Career Development Practitioner at Wycheproof P-12 College. Fiona will visit the College regularly throughout each term for Career appointments with Students in Years 9-12. During these appointments Students will work through their Career Tools plan and discuss Subject selections, Personal Strengths, Abilities & Interests, Goal Setting, Career interests, Resumes, Work Experience opportunities, Post School options etc..

www.ncllen.org.au/career-education-partnership-cep

Did you know that Wycheproof College has a Careers Website?

Career Tools

Visit:https://wycheproofp12.careertools.com.au/

Attention: Year 12 Students

University of Melbourne Hansen Scholarship

Open: February 2, 2026

Close: March 30th, 2026

Value: Up to $108,000 AUD

https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/awards/hansen-scholarship

Victorian careers & EMPLOYMENT expo
TERTIARY ▸ SKILLS ▸ TRAINING ▸ JOBS
March 19, 20 & 21
Melbourne Showgrounds

This Year's Victorian Careers & Employment Expo is running from March 19th - 21st at the Melbourne Showgrounds.

www.careersemploymentexpo.com.au

Charles Sturt University Explore Days

Charles Sturt University

Albury-Wodonga – 10th March 2026

Wagga-Wagga – 24th March 2025

Are you in Year 10, 11 or 12? Explore Day is your chance to check out what life at Charles Sturt University is like. Take a look at our accommodation and tour our campus, chat with students and get the lowdown from lecturers.

Visit:

https://study.csu.edu.au/why-charles-sturt/events/explore-day

Marine Biology Experience

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

April 23rd to May 3rd, 2026

A practical learning experience on Maria Island for **year 11 and 12 students**. This predominately field-based unit consists of 5 days on picturesque Maria Island on the Tasmanian East Coast. The unit is open to 24 students and is designed to engage, challenge, excite and inspire you through a hands-on marine science program. Applications close at 11.59pm on Monday, 23rd February.

For Further Information Visit:

www.utas.edu.au/community-and-partners/schools/activities/sciences/maria-Island-marine-biology-experience

acmi

australian centre for the moving image

ACMI has a small number work experience placements for Year 10 students each year. The program allows students to gain experience working in the arts and culture industry. As part of the program, students will spend a working week onsite at ACMI, engaging with various ACMI teams, members, and departments, whilst embarking on a filmmaking task.

Applications Open 2nd Feb & Close 15th Feb.

www.acmi.net.au/about/careers/work-experience/

Defence Work Experience Program

The Defence Work Experience Program provides young Australians the opportunity to sample life in Defence and learn more about the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Australian Public Service (APS). Defence work experience activities are designed to be hands on and interactive so that you can make informed career decisions. Participants must be 15 years of age or over at the time of the placement.

Visit: https://defencecareers.nga.net.au/

Fiona Hall North Central LLEN
Careers and Pathways
Email: f.hall@ncllen.org.au

CALDER UNITED CRICKET CLUB - CRICKET BLAST

Calder United Cricket Club's Cricket Blast starts Thursday 5th February. Register: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/add0e7

- For kids aged 10 and under.
- Action-packed weekly 60–90 minute sessions
- Learn the skills through fun, modified games
- Safe and inclusive environment
- We'll take care of the equipment

CALDER UNITED LIONS HOCKEY CLUB AGM

The Calder United Lions Hockey Club AGM will be held on Sunday 15th February at the Terminus Hotel. All players and families encouraged to attend. The Club is currently accepting expressions of interest for coaching and other volunteer positions. Preseason training announcements coming soon.

2026 WYCHEPROOF TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The 73rd annual Labour Day Wycheproof Tennis Tournament will be held over the long weekend in March. Entries open soon! For more information, keep an eye on socials or email hello@wycheprooftennisclub.com.au

2026 WYCHEPROOF LIONS CLUB SHOW & SHINE

The Wycheproof Lions Club Show & Shine will be held at the Wycheproof Race Course on Sunday 8th March. Gates open at 8am and presentations from 12pm. Cost is $10 per person (under 18 is free) and a BBQ will be available. Lots of prizes for car, truck and motorbike entrants. For more information call Gypsy on 0400 848 969 or Guy on 0406 998 663.

SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP

Supported Playgroup sessions are kicking off across the Buloke Shire. Wycheproof sessions are held fortnightly at the old Wycheproof Kinder on High Street. The first session is on Thursday 12th of February from 10.30am - 12pm. Call Carolyn on 0487 459 772 for more information.

WCRC BUS TRIP

WCRC is taking bookings for a bus trip to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show on Thursday 26th March. Seats are limited - register by calling (03) 5493 7455 or email info@wycheproofcrc.org.au

LUNCH ORDER REMINDER
ORDERS MUST BE IN BY 10AM
MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

All orders submitted online through the My School Connect app by 10am.
Due to staff shortages, the Bakery cannot accept orders after this time.
Payment through the app with either credit card*, PayPal* or My School Connect account.

** fees apply*