

Concongella Primary School Newsletter

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Thursday 27th August, 2026
Term 3, Edition 14



Packing Bags and Building Excitement: **Somers Camp is Calling!**

The countdown is officially on! With only three weeks left of the school term, our Grade 5 and 6 students are shifting their focus toward one of the most anticipated events of the year: Somers Camp!

While the rest of the school is settling into the final weeks of classroom routines, the senior building is buzzing with packing talk, team-building anticipation, and a fair bit of nervous excitement. Somers Camp offers our oldest students a unique opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves on outdoor ropes courses, and build lifelong friendships with peers from other schools.

Whether it is conquering a fear of heights, learning to cabin-share, or simply spending a few days away from home, we know our students are going to represent our school beautifully. Get those sleeping bags ready - adventure awaits!

Here's what our students had to say when we asked them what they were most looking forward to...

Oliver: "I am mostly looking forward to hanging out with my friends and doing the challenges."

Toby: "I'm looking forward to all of the outdoor activities."

Tyler: "I'm looking forward to bike riding and the nature walks."

Ted: "I am mostly looking forward to the water activities."

Will: "I'm looking forward to zip-lining and hanging out with my friends."

Term 3 Dates to remember

Friday 28 August

- Cluster Book Week Celebration Day

Tuesday 1 September

- School Council 6.00pm

Wednesday 2 September

- Black Ranges Athletics

Friday 4 September

- Father Day Big Breakfast

Monday 7 September

- Student Support Group Meetings (SSGs)

Tuesday 8 September

- Somers Camp departs

Thursday 10 September

- R U OK Day Celebration Day

Friday 11 September

- Learning Showcase from 2.30pm

Wednesday 16 September

- Somers Camp returns

Friday 18 September

- Last Day Term 3 early finish 2.10pm

A Word From The Principal

Our School Review What the Panel Told Us

We're delighted to share some wonderful feedback from our recent school review. In Literacy, the review panel observed strong, structured teaching practice across every classroom, with consistent, predictable routines that our students clearly understand and thrive within. Students had plenty of opportunities to respond and engage throughout lessons, supported by confident teaching and excellent support from our ES staff.



In Maths, the panel praised our approaches in Years 3–6 and highlighted the use of concrete materials in F–2 as a real strength to keep building on. Strategies like cold calling, our bell system, and non-volunteer, were being used consistently and effectively to keep students engaged. We're looking forward to building on these as part of our ongoing growth.

Mathematics will be a whole school priority for us in 2027, with a focus on strengthening the structures we use to deliver both intervention and extension that align with our multi-tiered systems of support.

Some lovely themes emerged from conversations with our students, staff and parents. Our students told the panel they want to make mistakes and learn from them, they're genuinely seeking more challenge and higher expectations, and they spoke fondly of Art and Inquiry. Student voice really shone through, with our students telling us they'd love even more feedback on their learning and the chance to track their own progress.

Across our whole school community, there was a strong shared sense of feeling valued, supported and trusted. People spoke about our common language and consistency, especially around behaviour, and how everyone feels on the same page. Our data driven approach and clear intervention goals were recognised as real strengths.

Parents shared that they feel a strong sense of shared values with our school, spoke warmly of the uEducateus app, and highlighted how included they feel. There was strong support for our intervention programs, and parents were thrilled to see growth in our NAPLAN results, with some even saying they'd love to see our school grow to a P–12!

Thank you to everyone who took part in these conversations. This feedback will guide our continued growth as a school community.

Black Rangers Athletics

Looking ahead, three of our students will represent our school at the Black Rangers Athletics on the 2nd of September. Good luck to Oliver, Toby and Solara in your events. Making it to the next round is an achievement in itself, and we couldn't be prouder of you.

Father's Day Big Breakfast

Our Father's Day Big Breakfast will be held on Friday, 4th of September, and we would love to see as many of our school dads, grandads, uncles and other special male role models there as possible. Along with a delicious spread cooked up with plenty of care, this event is our way of pausing to say thank you, for the time you give, the support you offer, and the difference you make in the lives of our students every single day.

Whether you're a father, grandfather, uncle, family friend or any other male role model our students look up to, please know you are warmly welcome to join us. It's a morning about connection, community and celebrating the special bond between our students and the important men in their lives. We can't wait to fill the deck with laughter, good food and plenty of school spirit. We hope to see you there!

A Word From The Principal

Tasmania Camp

Our Tasmania Camp is fast approaching, with final details being finalised. We'd love to see as many parents as possible at our camp information evening on the 8th of September at 6.30pm. We've had a wonderful response to our RSVPs. We encourage you to come along and bring any questions you have. Thank you for trusting us to provide this memorable experience for your child, one they'll remember for years to come.

Major Raffle Draw

Our major raffle draw will be held this Monday, 31st, at 2:50pm on the deck. All families are welcome to attend, and our leading raffle ticket seller will be presented with their prize on the day. Could we please ask that all raffle booklets and money be returned as soon as possible. The cut-off is Monday morning so we can organise the draw that afternoon.

A Huge Thank You to Our Raffle Champions

We would like to take a moment to shine a light on a number of families who have gone above and beyond in selling raffle tickets for our school community.

A special mention must go to the Fox and McGrath families, who have each sold over \$1,500 worth of raffle books. An extraordinary effort that truly deserves to be celebrated.

We would also like to thank the Ressugan, Ridd, Ringin and Dean families for their wonderful contribution to this fundraiser.

Small rural schools like ours are only as strong as the community that stands behind them, and your efforts are a perfect example of that spirit in action. Every booklet sold, every conversation had with neighbours, friends and family, and every bit of time you gave up to support this fundraiser adds up to something much bigger than the raffle itself, it helps us provide better opportunities, resources and experiences for every single child at our school.

What stands out most is the generosity behind it all. You didn't do this for recognition, you did it because you care about our school and our community, and because you understand that when one of us benefits, we all benefit. That kind of selflessness is rare, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

If we could give a prize to each of you individually, we would, without hesitation. Please know that your efforts have made a genuine difference, and on behalf of our staff, students and wider school community, thank you. It's families like yours that make Concongella Primary School the warm, connected and caring community it is.

With thanks,
Amy Henderson.

Part 4 of 5 Keeping It Safe: Our AI Guardrails

Part four: the policies and protections that sit behind everything we do with AI at Concongella PS.

Privacy comes first

Any use of AI at our school is bound by strict expectations around student privacy. Staff do not enter identifying student information eg. names, photos, or personal details into AI tools. Where AI supports planning or drafting, it works with general content, not individual student data.

The policy backbone

Our approach isn't improvised. It's anchored in two key documents:

- *The Victorian Department of Education's Generative AI in Schools* policy, which sets clear rules for appropriate use in government schools.
- *The Australian Framework for Generative AI in Schools*, which guides ethical, safe, and pedagogically sound use nationally.

Human oversight, always

Every use of AI in our school is checked by a person. Nothing generated by AI goes directly to students or families without multiple staff members reviewing, editing, and taking responsibility for it.

This is a non-negotiable part of how we work.

We also regularly revisit our practices as this technology and the guidance around it continues to develop, to make sure we're always erring on the side of caution.

In the next issue

Part 5 What Comes Next: how we plan to introduce AI literacy to students, once the groundwork is firmly in place.



Students Of The Week



Congratulations to the following students for displaying our school values of

Safe



Respectful



Responsible

WATTLE HUB F,1,2

Connor: By making an extra effort with his numeracy.

BANKSIA HUB 3-4

Macie: By being an enthusiastic learner in all areas of her learning. Well done!

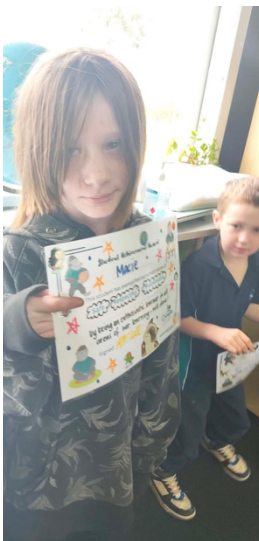
Hudson: By always trying to stay focused and do his best during writing fluency.

WARATAH HUB 5-6

Ted: By applying great effort to his stop-motion inquiry project. Well done!

MACQLIT

Congratulations **Jaylen & Asher** on passing Part C of the MacqLit program! Your hard work, persistence and commitment have really paid off. You should both be very proud of this fantastic achievement. Keep up the great work!



Waratah Hub

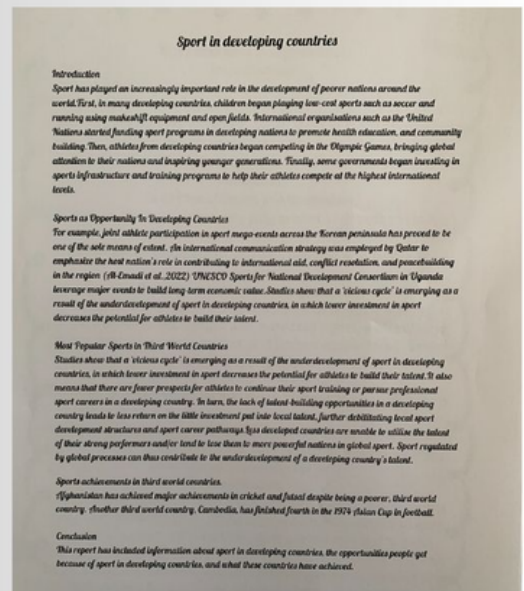
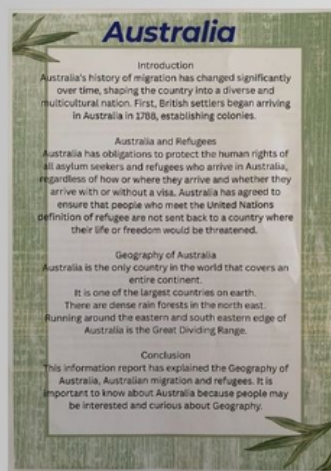
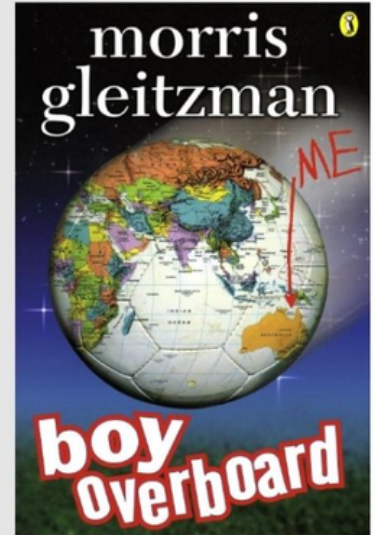
Thursday 27th of August

READING

This term our class has been immersed in **Boy Overboard** by Morris Gleitzman. The students have loved discussing the big themes in the novel - refugees, life in Afghanistan, family, courage and a shared love for soccer. Our students have brought real empathy and curiosity to our class conversations.

WRITING

Using **Boy Overboard** as our mentor text, students have been writing information reports connected to the novel's themes. Take a look below at some of our young writers and their fantastic reports!





Self Regulation: A Key Skill For Life

Self-regulation is the ability to understand and manage our behaviour, our emotional reactions, and our responses to the world around us. It's a skill that develops gradually throughout childhood and adolescence, and it plays a vital role in how children learn, connect with others and navigate everyday life.

Self-regulation covers three broad areas that work together:

Cognitive self-regulation is the ability to plan and focus on tasks, pay attention and solve problems – skills that are at the heart of learning in the classroom.

Behavioural self-regulation is being aware of our actions and impulses, and managing them so we can respond positively and appropriately to different situations.

Emotional self-regulation is tuning in to our feelings and managing them so we can react in ways that are healthy and constructive – even when things feel difficult.

It's also worth knowing that self-regulation isn't fixed. Tiredness, illness, changes to routine, and stressful or significant events can all affect a child's ability to regulate their behaviour and emotions on any given day. Some children manage beautifully at school but find it harder to hold things together at home. Others struggle in busy, overwhelming environments.



Raising Children
Network

Community News

Real Conversation Real Healing

It's okay to need someone
to talk to.



Contact Us: 0438 392855
ABSOLUTE WELLBEING MIND & BODY
COUNSELLING



BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG!

YOUNG LEADERS. REAL IMPACT. BETTER TOGETHER.

STAWELL LEO CLUB
SPONSORED BY STAWELL LIONS CLUB

LEAD. SERVE. INSPIRE.
Make friends. Build skills. Create change.

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR CLUB. YOUR FUTURE.

MAKE FRIENDS Connect with like-minded young people	BUILD LEADERSHIP Develop skills and confidence for life	SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY Create positive local impact	BE PART OF SOMETHING GLOBAL Join a worldwide network of young leaders	HAVE FUN Projects, events and adventures that matter
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WHO CAN JOIN?
Young people aged 12-30. All are welcome!

WHAT DO WE DO?
Community projects, fundraising, leadership opportunities, events and more!

WHERE?
Stawell and surrounding communities

BE THE CHANGE STAWELL NEEDS YOUNG LEADERS LIKE YOU!

No experience needed – just a positive attitude and a willingness to help!

GET INVOLVED TODAY!
Be part of something bigger. Make a difference. We'd love to have you!

INTERESTED? LET'S CHAT!

Contact: Marcelle
Mobile: 0488 830 883

Contact: Jen
Mobile: 0488 411 965

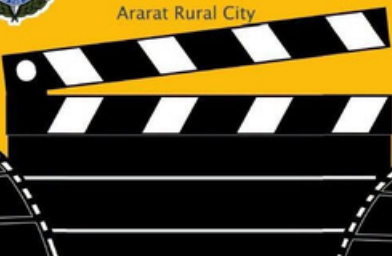
TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER STAWELL. JOIN THE STAWELL LEO CLUB TODAY!

RU OK?

Ararat Police, Ararat City Council and Astor Cinema are partnering up to provide this free event for everyone to enjoy a night at the movies, and ask the question: "Are you OK?"

Thursday 10th September 2026

Astor Cinema Ararat
250 Barkly Street, Ararat VIC 3377
Doors open at 6:30PM, followed by a conversation around RUOK Day at 7:00PM. Movies will begin at 7:15PM.



Ask RUOK?
A conversation could change a life.

FREE EVENT

FREE EVENT

MOVIE NIGHT

THURSDAY | 6 PM
10TH SEPTEMBER 26
AT ARARAT ASTOR CINEMA

School News



Book Week Celebration At Concongella Priamry School

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST
2026



Story Of Symphonys



Join together with Halls Gap and Great
Western Primary Schools

Come dressed as your favourite book character



JOINS US FOR OUR

FATHER'S DAY

Big Breakfast



SEPTEMBER 4TH

08:15AM

At Concongella
Primary School

Birthday Wishes

WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS / STAFF CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAYS BETWEEN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER AND THE NEXT!

MS. AMY & MS. MERRYNN

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

School Assembly

Just a friendly reminder that our school assemblies are held every two weeks.

Our next assembly is scheduled for
Friday, 4th SEP at 2.50 PM.

These assemblies are student-led and provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop their public speaking skills in front of an authentic audience. Your presence helps create a supportive environment and makes the experience even more meaningful for our students.

If your child is receiving an award during this time, their teacher will contact you directly.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.
We look forward to seeing you there!



Term 3 Reminders



Water Bottles:

Please ensure water bottles are sent with your child each day.

Supervision:

The school yard is supervised between 8.30am and 3.30pm each day. Our staff are often in meetings or planning prior to and after these times. Please be mindful of dropping your children outside these times as they will be unsupervised.

Lunch Orders:

Lunch Orders are available every Thursday weekly. All orders must be placed into the notes box in the office prior to 3pm on Wednesdays. These days are marked on our uEducateUs calendar, in the newsletter and on facebook. Lunch order forms and menu's are available from the office.

Voluntary Contributions:

Our Voluntary Contributions were sent home with families at the end of last year. Thank you to those families that have made contributions already, your support is greatly appreciated. These contributions go towards essential classroom consumables, subscriptions, swimming program, whole school events, first aid equipment etc. This can be paid at the office. If you wish to discuss a payment plan, please contact Amy in the office on 5358 1811 or call in to see us.

Communication - uEducateUs

uEducateUs is our main form of communication. Our newsletters, weekly updates, messages from your teachers, camps and excursions are all on this platform. Parents and carers are able to record absences, message teachers and see the calendar on uEducateUs. If you are not logged on to uEducateUs please call the office on 5358 1811 for assistance.

Second Hand Uniforms

Second hand uniforms will be available from our uniform stall every second Friday at our school assembly for a gold coin donation per item. Any good quality second hand donations are always welcome and appreciated.



Dates to remember

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 7	AUG 24 Breakfast Club Book Fair	AUG 25 Book Fair Chinese	AUG 26 Breakfast Club Book Fair	AUG 27 Newsletter Lunch Order Day	AUG 28 Cluster Day - Book Week Celebration 
Week 8	AUG 31 Breakfast Club	SEP 1 Chinese	SEP 2 Black Ranges Athletics	SEP 3 Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	SEP 4 Fathers Day - Big Breakfast Assembly - 2:50pm
Week 9	SEP 7 Breakfast Club	SEP 8 Chinese Somers Camp departs Camp Information Evening 6:30pm	SEP 9 Breakfast Club S.S.G's (Student Support Group Meetings)	SEP 10 Newsletter R U OK? DAY Lunch Order Day	SEP 11 Learning Showcase 2:30pm
Week 10	SEP 14 Breakfast Club	SEP 15 Chinese	SEP 16 Breakfast Club Somers Camp Returns	SEP 17 Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	SEP 18 Last Day Term 2:10pm Finish