Concongella Primary School Newsletter

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Thursday 5th November, 2026
Term 4, Edition 17



Celebrating New Beginnings, Adventures & Transitions!

Last Monday, we had our 2027 Step Up Program, where all of our students had the opportunity to transition into their 2027 year levels and classrooms. Students spent the morning session getting to know their new classroom environments, meeting their new classroom teachers and connecting with their Education Support staff. It was lovely to see everyone exploring their new spaces, building relationships and becoming familiar with what the next school year will look like. These experiences are such an important part of helping our students feel confident, comfortable and ready for the year ahead.

We also welcomed our 2027 Foundation students for their very first transition to school session. It was so great to have our newest little learners join us for their first day, begin exploring their new school environment and start getting to know our wonderful staff and classrooms. We loved watching them take those first steps, explore their surroundings and begin settling into their new school journey. What a special first day, and we can't wait to welcome them back for more exciting experiences!

Last Tuesday, our 5/6 students had a fantastic time heading off to the Black Ranges Cricket Blast! It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to get involved, have fun, develop their cricket skills and enjoy a day of sport, teamwork and connection with others. We loved seeing everyone getting involved and giving it their best!

Term 4 Dates to remember

Wednesday 11 November
- Remembrance Day Celebration
- Whole School Transition Day 9.00-12.30pm

Tuesday 24 November
- School Council 6.00pm

Thursday 26 November
- Whole School Transition Day 9.00-1.30pm

Saturday 28 November
- State Election and Artisan Market at Concongella P.S

Monday 30 Nov - Friday 4 Dec
- F-6 Swimming Program-Parents to pick up students from Stawell 3.10pm

Thursday 3 December
- Christmas Concert 5.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 8 December
- Statewide Transition Day F-6

Wednesday 9 December
- Student Support Group Meetings (SSGs)

Thursday 11 December
- Semester 2 Reports Released
- Learning Showcase from 2.30pm

Wednesday 14 December
- Grade 6 Graduation 6:00pm

A Word From The Principal



It’s hard to believe we’ve already reached the halfway point of Term 4. This term is flying by, and our students and staff have been busy with learning, rehearsals and preparations for the many celebrations that make the end of the school year so special.

Assessment and End of Year Reports

Over the coming weeks, students will complete their end of year assessments across literacy, numeracy and other learning areas. These assessments help teachers understand how far each student has come this year and where their next steps in learning sit. They also give us valuable information to share with next year’s teachers so every child gets off to a strong start in 2027.

Students don’t need to do anything special to prepare. A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and arriving at school on time make a real difference. If your child is feeling worried about assessments, please reassure them that this is simply a chance to show what they know. As always please reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

End of year reports will be released to families via our **uEducateUs portal on Friday 11th December**.

Performing Arts with Alanis Williams

We’re delighted to be partnering again with Alanis Williams for our performing arts program. Since Week 1, students have taken part in two sessions every week, developing their skills in singing, movement, drama and performance. These sessions build much more than stage skills. Students are growing in confidence, learning to work together as an ensemble, and discovering the joy of performing for an audience. It’s been wonderful to hear the music and laughter coming from rehearsals, and we thank Alanis for her energy and expertise.

Christmas Concert Thursday 3rd December, 5:30pm

All this hard work is building towards our much-anticipated Christmas Concert, to be held on **Thursday 3rd December at 5:30pm**. Every student will be part of the performance, and they can’t wait to share what they’ve been working on.

The concert is a highlight of our school year and a true community celebration. We warmly encourage all families, grandparents, friends and community members to join us. Further details about costumes, arrival times and the evening’s arrangements will be sent home closer to the date.

A Word From The Principal

Christmas Raffle

To add to the festive fun, we will be holding a Christmas Raffle on the night of the concert, with prizes drawn during the evening. Funds raised will go directly towards supporting programs and resources that benefit all of our students. We'd love your help to make the raffle a great success. Donations of prizes are warmly welcomed, and every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. We will also be seeking donations from local businesses.

Donations can be dropped off at the school office at any time before the concert. Thank you in advance for your generosity. It's the support of our families and community that makes events like this so special.

Christmas Supper Bring a Plate to Share

Directly after the concert, we invite everyone to stay on for a shared Christmas supper. We ask that each family bring a plate of food to share, whether sweet or savoury, homemade or store-bought. It's a lovely chance to relax, catch up with one another and celebrate the end of a wonderful year together as a school community.

To help keep everyone safe, please label your plate with its main ingredients, as some members of our community have food allergies. We look forward to sharing a festive meal with you all.

Grade 6 Graduation Monday 14th December, North Park

Our Grade 6 Graduation will be held on **Monday 14th December at North Park**. Grade 6 students and their families will come together to share a meal and celebrate the end of their primary school journey.

Graduation is a significant milestone. Our Grade 6 students have been leaders, role models and wonderful members of our school community, and this evening is an opportunity to recognise everything they have contributed and achieved. We are so proud of them and look forward to celebrating with their families as they prepare for the exciting next step into secondary school. More information will be shared with Grade 6 families directly.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our students and school. We look forward to seeing you at our end of year events.

Learning at Concongella Part 2 of 4

Teaching Writing, Sentence by Sentence

How The Writing Revolution shapes our Writing sessions

Alongside our Literacy Block, every student has a dedicated hour each day for writing. Rather than asking children to write and hoping the skill develops on its own, we teach writing explicitly using The Writing Revolution — an approach grounded firmly in evidence about how writing ability actually develops.

The core idea is simple but powerful: strong writing starts at the sentence level. If a child can't yet build a clear, well-constructed sentence, no amount of planning templates or brainstorming will produce a strong paragraph or story. So we start there, and build up.

What students actually do

- Practise expanding simple sentences with more detail and precision
- Learn to combine short, choppy sentences into clear, well linked ones
- Use sentence level activities to show understanding of content across all subjects, not just during 'writing time'
- Build up from sentences to organised paragraphs, and eventually to longer, structured pieces

A key feature of this approach is that it isn't confined to the Writing hour alone. Because sentence level skills are so fundamental, students also use them to demonstrate what they've learned in other curriculum areas. Writing becomes a tool for thinking, not just a subject in its own right.

What this looks like in the classroom

- Short, explicit min -lessons on a specific sentence skill
- High levels of guided practice with immediate teacher feedback
- Writing tasks connected to content students are already learning
- A steady build from sentences, to paragraphs, to extended texts

How families can help at home

- Ask your child to tell you one interesting sentence about their day, then help them make it more detailed
- Model combining two short sentences into one when you're chatting together
- Celebrate clear thinking, not just neat handwriting or correct spelling
- Encourage writing for real purposes- a note, a message, a shopping list

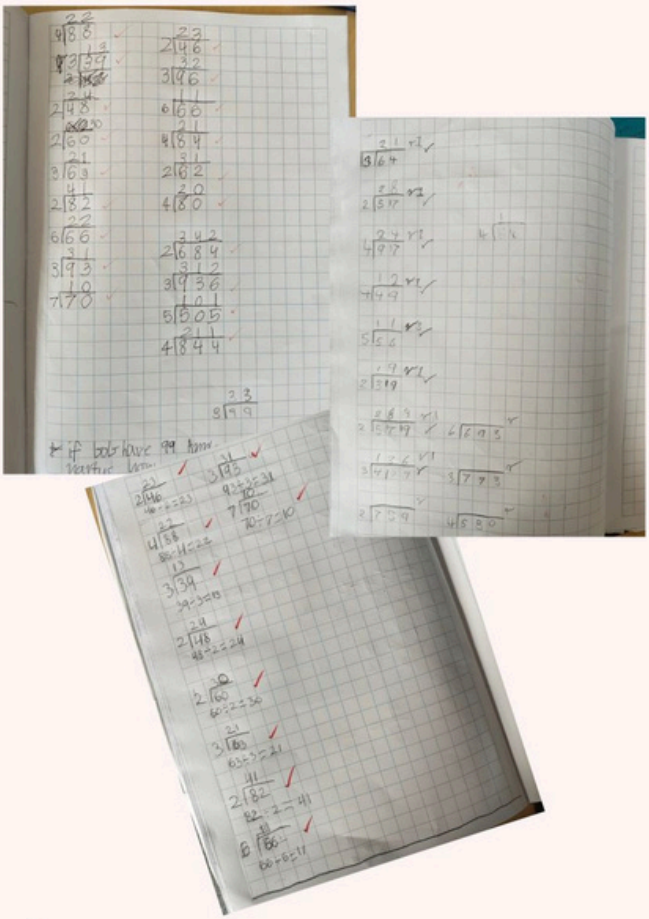
Next in the series: Part 3 looks at how we teach Mathematics.

CONCONGELLA

THE BANKSIA HUB

never give up

THURSDAY 5/11/26



TOP NEWS

MATHS

DIVISION, DIVISION, DIVISION! THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING IN THE BANKSIA HUB OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS. STUDENTS BEGAN BY EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION AND USING KNOWN MULTIPLICATION FACTS TO SOLVE DIVISION PROBLEMS. THEY THEN MOVED ON TO THE WRITTEN ALGORITHM (SHORT DIVISION), LEARNING TO RENAME NUMBERS WHEN NEEDED AND TO WORK OUT WHAT TO DO WITH REMAINDERS. YOU COULD HELP AT HOME BY ASKING YOUR CHILD TO EXPLAIN HOW MULTIPLICATION HELPS THEM DIVIDE, OR BY SHARING EVERYDAY ITEMS EQUALLY AND TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S LEFT OVER.

WORK FEATURED HAMISH, SAMERA, IZZY

WRITING FLUENCY

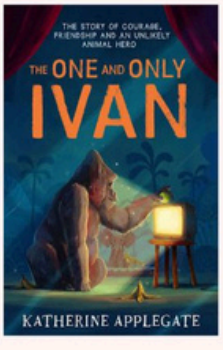
WHAT IS WRITING FLUENCY?

WRITING FLUENCY IS THE ABILITY TO GET IDEAS ONTO PAPER SMOOTHLY, WITHOUT OVERTHINKING EVERY WORD. EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, STUDENTS WRITE FOR 10 MINUTES ON A PROMPT SUCH AS A QUESTION, A SENTENCE STARTER OR A PICTURE. THE FOCUS IS ON KEEPING THE PENCIL MOVING AND ENJOYING WRITING, RATHER THAN PERFECT SPELLING OR NEATNESS. THESE REGULAR SHORT BURSTS BUILD STUDENTS' WRITING STAMINA AND CONFIDENCE. OVER TIME, THEY HELP STUDENTS WRITE LONGER, MORE DETAILED PIECES ACROSS ALL THEIR WRITING.

MENTOR TEXT

THIS TERM, OUR CLASS IS READING THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN BY KATHERINE APPLEGATE. IT'S THE STORY OF A GORILLA WHO LIVES IN A SHOPPING-CENTRE CIRCUS AND DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE. EACH SESSION WE READ A SECTION TOGETHER, TALK ABOUT THE CHARACTERS, THEIR FEELINGS AND THE BIG IDEAS IN THE STORY, AND EXPLORE NEW AND INTERESTING VOCABULARY. IVAN'S THOUGHTFUL, EMOTIONAL VOICE ALSO MAKES IT A GREAT MENTOR TEXT FOR OUR WRITING. STUDENTS ARE BORROWING IDEAS AND POWERFUL LANGUAGE FROM THE NOVEL AS THEY WRITE PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHETHER WILD ANIMALS BELONG IN CIRCUSES. YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ASK YOUR CHILD HOW IVAN IS FEELING OR WHAT THEY THINK SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIM!

Ms. Amy



WELLBEING NEWSLETTER



Helping Children Make Sense of Screens

Primary school children can follow storylines and understand how events connect, but they tend to take what they see at face value. Whether it's TV, online videos, games or movies, children often don't question what's on the screen, and they may look up to characters, influencers and celebrities as role models, copying how they speak and behave.

When images are scary

Although older children rely less on pictures for meaning than younger ones, frightening images can still upset them. News coverage can be especially distressing because children understand that these events are real.

What about violence?

Many shows, films and games aimed at this age group suggest that violence is acceptable when "the good guys" use it. Children can misread this message and come to believe that violence is a good way to solve problems or get what they want. Experts are still divided on the long-term effects: some believe on-screen violence can make children less sensitive to it and more aggressive, while others argue that older children can separate games from real life.

How families can help

Watch or play alongside your child when you can, and talk about what you see together. Asking simple questions such as "Was that a good way to solve the problem?" or "Do you think that really happens?" helps children think more critically. Keep an eye on news exposure, check age ratings, and let your child know they can always come to you if something they've seen worries them.

For more information, visit raisingchildren.net.au

Students Of The Week

Congratulations to the following students for displaying our school values of







WATTLE HUB F,1,2

Lewis McShane - For settling into our school community with a positive attitude. Well done!
Bella Clarke - For settling into our school community with a positive attitude. Well done!

BANKSIA HUB 3-4

Christian Clarke - For settling into our school community with a positive attitude. Well done.

WARATAH HUB 5-6

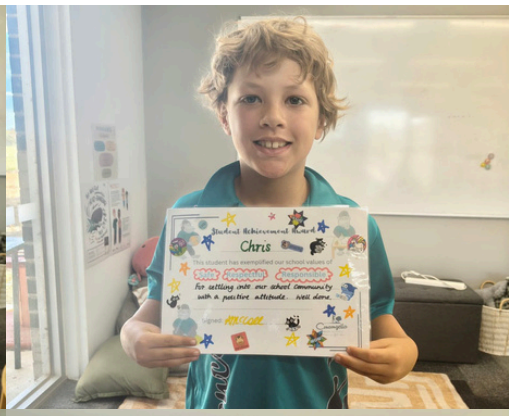
Congratulations to our Stawell Show award winners, you should both be very proud of yourselves!

Tyler Mcgrath - For taking out 3rd prize in the Environment/Nature category and 1st prize in the Abstract Drawing/Painting category. Magnificent work!

Toby McGrath - Who was highly commended in the Environment/Nature category for his amazing bird art piece. Well done!

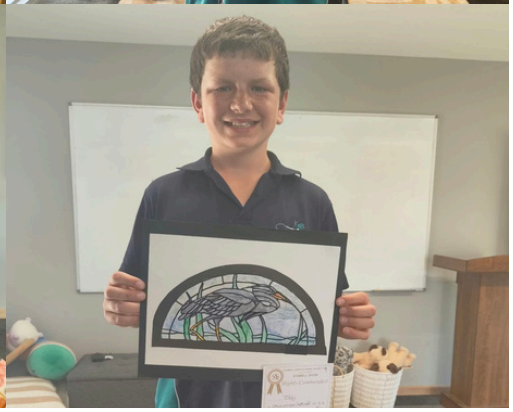












Community News

THE COTTAGE

Do you know someone who is doing it tough?

If you know anyone who is doing it tough, please tell them to come to the Cottage, 20 Sloane St. Stawell,
Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, between 10:30am and 1:30pm
and we will help them.
For out of hours emergencies ring -0408 038 949."





School News

CONCONGELLA P.S INVITES YOU TO OUR
JUKEBOX MUSICAL

CHRISTMAS Concert

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT FULL OF JOY, LAUGHTER,
AND FESTIVE FUN AT THE CONCONGELLA HALL.



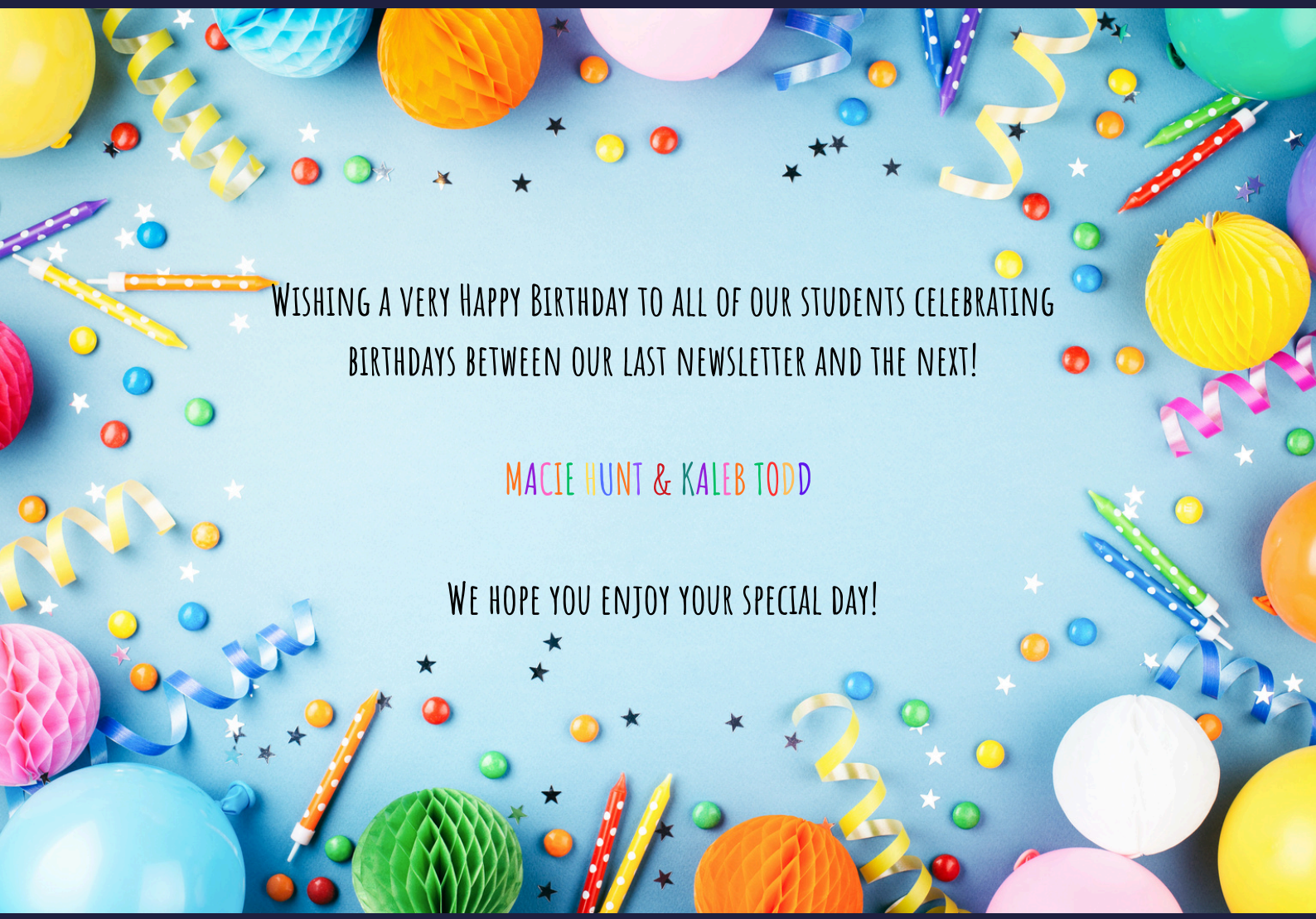
3RD DEC

5:30-7:30PM

PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF NIBBLES TO SHARE
IF YOU CAN!

Concongella
PRIMARY SCHOOL
support . encourage . achieve

Birthday Wishes



School Assembly

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

Our next assembly is scheduled for
Friday, 13th NOV 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 4 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.

Hats:
Just a reminder that in Term 4, students are required to wear their school bucket hats when outdoors.
If you need to purchase a school bucket hat, please see Amy or Nikeeta at the front office.
Thank you for your support in keeping our students sun safe! ☀️

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 5	**NOV 2** Report writing day - School Closure	**NOV 3** Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday	**NOV 4** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**NOV 5** Newsletter Performing Arts Lunch Order Day	**NOV 6** Breakfast Club
Week 6	**NOV 9** Breakfast Club	**NOV 10** Chinese	**NOV 11** Transition Day #2 9:00am - 12:30pm Performing Arts	**NOV 12** Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	**NOV 13** Breakfast Club Assembly - 2:50pm
Week 7	**NOV 16** Breakfast Club Peforming Arts	**NOV 17** Chinese	**NOV 18** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**NOV 19** Newsletter Lunch Order Day	**NOV 20** Breakfast Club
Week 8	**NOV 23** Breakfast Club Peforming Arts	**NOV 24** Chinese School Council 6:00pm	**NOV 25** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**NOV 26** Newsletter Whole school transition day 9am - 1:30pm #3 Lunch Order Day	**NOV 27** Breakfast Club Assembly - 2:50pm

PROTECT
Protecting children & young people from abuse is our responsibility
THE EDUCATION STATE
VICTORIA State Government | Education and Training