



# Marian College

A Kildare Education Ministries School in the Brigidine tradition

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Issue 10  
5th April, 2023

Principal: Mrs. Carmel Barker

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# From the Head of Staff Development



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students of Marian College,

❖ *We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning,*

❖ *We strive for continuous improvement*

In this our final newsletter for Term One, we take time to reflect on a time of triumph, challenge and mystery. We celebrate the many achievements of our talented students and the dedication and expertise of the Marian College staff who so ably support and guide them. In times of flux, I find the works of Rumi grounding and of comfort:

*"Be grateful for your life, every detail of it, and your face will come to shine like a sun, and everyone who sees it will be made glad and peaceful. Persist in gratitude, and you will slowly become one with the Sun of Love, and Love will shine through you its all-healing joy". Rumi*

As Term One draws to a close, it is important for us to reflect on our recent learnings and achievements. The College's Key Priorities guide us in our journey, and I offer a small number of examples as high-water marks below:

- In its commitment to improving literacy levels across the College, school improvement leaders (SIGS) and learning leaders (LL) turned their focus within Hubs to developing literacy through reading. Professional learning teams comprised of all teaching staff have engaged in targeted, school-based professional learning throughout term One. Both Paul McLoughlan and Megan Shea (PEAT leaders) also commenced their involvement in the ILSY program, whilst Natalie Wirper has been instrumental in progressing the whole school implementation vision alongside me.
- In its commitment to strengthening and extending intervention processes to address student performance gaps and opportunity gaps, Marian College's Student Welfare team is doing exceptional work

through programs such as RELATE, Elevate Study Skills, Peer Support programs, and House activities to name but a few initiatives. In the Learning and Teaching space, opportunities for students to engage in innovative and contextualised learning opportunities are being seeded. One notable example is Marian College's recent invitation to enter into the highly competitive Partner Schools Program with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics. <https://www.centredarkmatter.org/> As a partner school, our students will have the opportunity to engage with experts in the physics discipline via incursions and webinars; whilst their science teachers will have access to cutting edge subject specific professional development activities, lesson plans and other rich teaching resources. Of further note, the Macqlit Literacy Program, and Elementary Maths Mastery Numeracy program go from strength to strength, with thanks to Rhonda North and her gifted team.

- The enactment of the College's Master Plan continues at pace with further updates to follow in future newsletter editions from our Principal, Carmel Barker, and Business Manager, Leonie McGuckian.
- And through the lens of Courage in 2023, the school community is exploring the themes of Justice and Peace in our community and world. The work of the Justice and Democracy Group is rightly celebrated in this week's newsletter, with Tanya Waterson and her student activists providing a timely reminder to us all of the importance of making fair trade purchases this Easter. The voice of students in this crucial space is a key ingredient in our change journey. Further to this and of equal importance is the work and learnings of the College's staff

around the Kildare Ministries Values, Vision and Mission. Following a successful series of professional learning activities, these principles are at the forefront of our staff's thinking, as we encourage staff to create authentic opportunities for integration into curriculum. I encourage you to explore such policies as the Kildare Ministries Modern Slavery Policy, to engage with the content and seek meaningful outlets for the principles wherever possible in your everyday lives. <https://www.kildareministries.org.au/kildare-ministries-policies>.

A positive, inclusive culture of learning is critical to building on existing successes at Marian College. Our teachers are challenged to develop strong and comprehensive pedagogies, and research and evidence-based knowledge. Our leaders, are being nurtured to adopt mindsets of transformation, growth, innovation, empowerment and partnership. At Marian College it is evident to me that we are passionate about organisational culture, innovation and commitment to our craft. We strive to inspire and motivate, and are driven to create and contribute to cultures of support, well-being and inclusion in all facets of education.

To our wonderful students and their families, I include in this newsletter as an important reflection piece, *The Culture of Learning at Marian College*. The statement clearly articulates our commitment to perseverance in learning and continuous improvement, as modelled by our staff. I encourage you to review the policy and to reacquaint yourselves with expectations, roles and responsibilities as learners.

The Student Learning Action Statement serves as a reminder that all students will endeavour to do their 'personal best' by:

- Learning in every lesson
- Coming prepared for every lesson in attitude and action
- Respecting the learning environment
- Respecting the rights of others to learn
- Accepting new challenges
- Persevering and completing all tasks to the best of their ability
- Accepting feedback as a chance to grow

On behalf of the Leadership Team, we look forward to seeing everyone back at school brimming with energy and excitement on Wednesday 26 April. Please consult the school calendar attached for key dates and other information.

Finally, for now, my sincere thanks to every member of the Marian College community for the warm welcome received and for the support and friendship offered. I look forward to meeting you in the future and to sharing our stories.

I wish you all a restorative break and trust that your time with family and loved ones brings much joy and fulfilment.

Alexandra Abela

Assistant Principal, Head of Staff Development

## Hearth Keeper Prayer

*Brigid of the Mantle, encompass us,  
Lady of the Lambs, protect us,  
Keeper of the Hearth, kindle us.*

*Beneath your mantle, gather us,  
And restore us to memory.  
Mothers of our mother,  
Foremothers strong.*

*Guide our hands in yours,  
Remind us how to kindle the hearth.  
To keep it bright, to preserve the flame.  
Your hands upon ours,*

*Our hands within yours,  
To kindle the light,  
Both day and night.*

*The Mantle of Brigid about us,  
The Memory of Brigid within us,  
The Protection of Brigid keeping us  
From harm, from ignorance, from  
heartlessness.*

*This day and night,  
From dawn till dark,  
From dark till dawn*





## THE CULTURE OF LEARNING AT MARIAN COLLEGE

### Our Commitment to Learning

We encourage excellence and perseverance in learning

We strive for continuous improvement.



**I WILL:**

### Student Learning Action Statement



**Learn in every lesson**

**Come prepared for every lesson  
in attitude and action**

**Respect the learning environment**

**Respect the rights of others to learn**

**Accept new challenges**

**Persevere and complete all tasks  
to the best of my ability**

**Accept feedback as a chance to grow**



# IN MY WORDS *with Emily Start*

## VM Learning Captain

I was born on the 12th of December 2005 in Ararat to my parents Michelle and Steven Start. I have a brother called Nathan (17 ½ months older) and I was the youngest for six years until my parents decided to have another one, making me the middle child. My younger sister is called Charlotte. I have lived in Crowlands on my parent's farm my whole life, which has been in our family for roughly six generations. Living on the farm has meant we have had many, many pets. Currently, we have four dogs (Goldie is my favourite, he is 14), two fish, four hermit crabs, 14 alpacas (they aren't pets, they're evil), two pet lambs, and 10 chickens. But there have been many more. At one time, we had 50 chickens. There have also been countless pet lambs over the years.

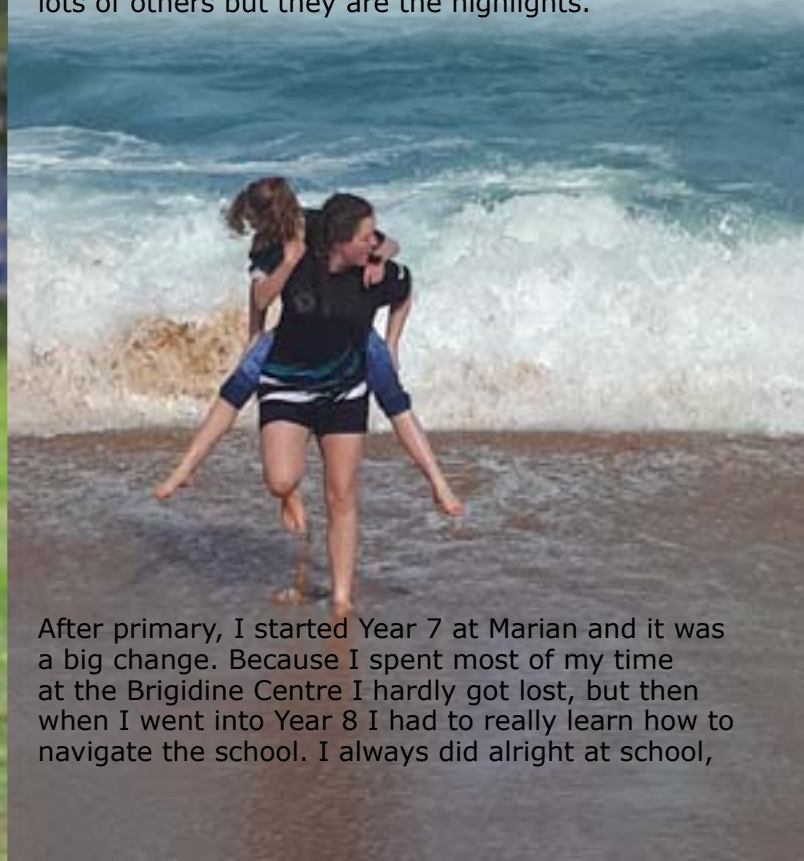
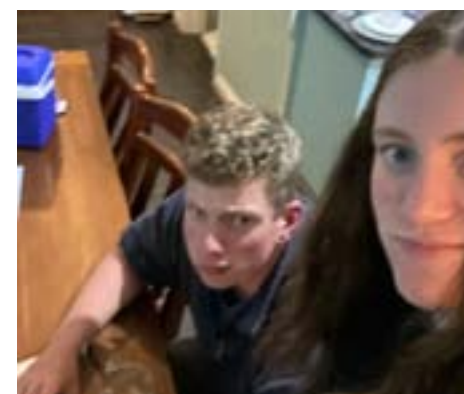
I went to St Andrew's Kindergarten and met many people, some of whom are my closest friends today even though I didn't like them when I first met them. After that, I moved onto St Mary's Primary School where I had many adventures and funny memories like locking Mrs A out of the classroom and bringing our pets in for show and tell.

As a kid, going camping was (and still is) one of my favourite things to do. We went on quite a few camping holidays as a kid, and our four-week NT trip was my favourite. We drove up through SA and up to Alice Springs stopping at heaps of cool places along the way with things to do like biking the whole way around Uluru (about 10km). We have done other cool trips too like driving across the Nullarbor and going to Pambula beach plus lots of others but they are the highlights.

After primary, I started Year 7 at Marian and it was a big change. Because I spent most of my time at the Brigidine Centre I hardly got lost, but then when I went into Year 8 I had to really learn how to navigate the school. I always did alright at school,

(even though it was never my favourite thing to do) so when I went into Year 11 I chose VCE. After a few weeks, I realised that it wasn't for me and switched to VCAL (VM now). This turned out to be a great decision because of how fun and supportive everyone is and also how personalised the work is to the career you want. I have also got to study my VET (Kitchen Operations) which is very fun and always the highlight of my week. So after school, I am going to get a chef apprenticeship, which completing my VET will help me with.

I want to thank all my closest friends who know who they are, for sticking with me during high school (I know I'm not easy on you sometimes and that you are probably sick of hearing how I want to drop out). Also, shout out to bus five because you guys are actually really funny when you want to be (but you need to get over Nathan). Thank you to all my teachers but especially my VCAL teachers Mrs Smith, Wayne, Mrs Murray, Bas, and Mrs Venn, you guys are the best. And thanks to my amazing family for supporting me and my decisions. Good luck to all the Year 12s I hope you go far in life!! Emily





# IN MY WORDS *with Paige Burger*

## CAL Learning Captain



Very late at night on Sunday the 22nd of May 2005, my incredible parents, Fiona and Rhys Burger welcomed me, their firstborn child into the world at Stawell Hospital. Mum loves to tell the story of my birth, late at night (11:57 pm to be specific) after the doctor had left because he was certain I wouldn't be born that day, Mum decided that she does as she pleases, saying "watch me" before pushing me out that night, making the doctor quickly come back to deliver me.

Because I was such a wonderful kid, a few years later in 2007, my little brother Liam was born, and if you don't know him, he is definitely a character. 6'4", energetic, a gentle giant (that isn't always gentle) who loves to push people's buttons. A mere 48 hours after he was born, I was already annoyed with him and bit him on the arm. (If you know him then you'd understand that it was probably fair.)

I've lived in Ararat my whole life and spent my primary school years at St. Mary's where I met some amazing people who I'm very grateful for and who have helped me immensely throughout my life. I then began high school in 2018 at Marian College where I will soon graduate alongside the wonderful people I've met on this journey.

I've been incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by admirable people consistently throughout my life. My family, both immediate and extended, is full of people that I heavily rely on and am so grateful to know. My parents have always been there to support me with everything and make sure that they push me to step out of my comfort zone and do the best I possibly can. Alongside them are my grandparents, numerous cousins, aunts and uncles who have also always been there to help with school, friendship troubles, and learning how to better myself.

Sport has constantly surrounded my life, starting with my Dad taping over my ultrasound video with an NBA game (which I think is hilarious, mum not so much). I grew up watching dad playing football out at Tatyoon on the weekends and playing

basketball for the Honey Badgers on a Wednesday night, both of which I grew to love watching. Later on, Liam and I both played out at Tatyoon, playing football and netball, respectively. Tatyoon will always be a place I cherish dearly and love to go out to whenever I can to watch friends play. Watching others play footy soon developed into me wanting to play football which was pretty short-lived as I played for one year at the ADJFA for the Bombers with Liam before I was too old to play juniors and too nervous to join a girl's team. I also played basketball for a little while in the girl's competition before I realised that playing basketball wasn't really my forte and I'd rather watch other people play. This led to me watching my dad play and later coach the Ararat Redbacks men's CBL basketball team where I have recently taken to being the announcer and DJ during the previous season, as well as watching my brother play in tournaments around Victoria with the Ararat Redbacks Under 18 squad.

If you know me, you know that I adore music and listen to it whenever I can and find great comfort in it. This stems from both my parents loving music and surrounding me with it for as long as I can remember. Mum has raised me to the sound of Dave Grohl, drumming for Nirvana and singing for the Foo Fighters, alongside Eddie Vedder and a variety of other rock bands which Dad also had me listening to from an early age. This music has been an extremely important part of my life and I've continued listening to the bands I've grown up with along with others I have come to love. Despite often being quite angry music, it brings me a lot of comfort and happiness in life. Other things contributing to my love of music are when growing up we would have family music video nights where we would get to take turns playing

our favourite music video or song on the TV, as well as always listening to music in the car. No matter how short the drive I always insist that someone puts music on.

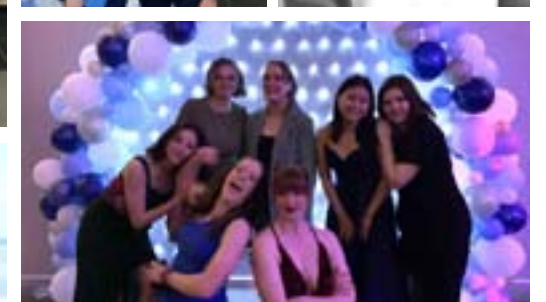
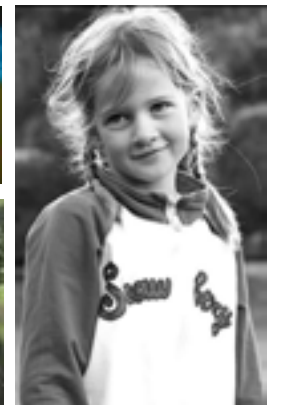
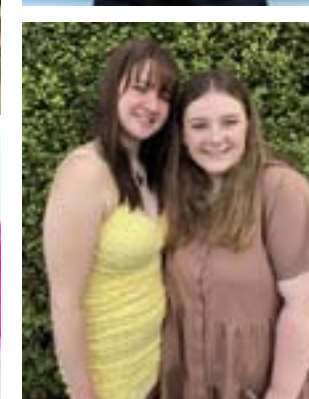
After school, I hope to go to university to study something to do with the environment and how I can help protect our precious life on this planet. My interest in the environment has been something that has come about in the past few years, and I quickly became very invested in how I can help. Along with being very passionate about the environment, I am also a proud feminist who wants to aid in the protection of LGBTQ+ and women's rights and strive to help the world become a better place, especially for those disadvantaged in society.

To finish, I would like to leave you all with this quote from the brilliant Dave Grohl: "Life is just too damn short to let someone else's opinion steer the wheel" - Dave Grohl, 'The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music'

I want to wish the Year 12s all the best this year. I'm so grateful to have such a wonderful, strong cohort who are all so supportive of one another. I also want to give a special thank you to Mr Summers for being an amazing TA teacher for the past five nearly six years of my life. I greatly appreciate everything you have done for me over the years.

Thank you to all the incredible people who have helped me become the person I am today. I will be forever grateful for you.

Paige xx





# IN MY WORDS *with Isabel Harney*

## *Synnott House Leader*

On the 30th of September 2005 my wonderful parents Fiona and Tim Harney welcomed their favourite and second born child into the world at Stawell Regional Health. I was also welcomed by my older sister Jemima. Jemima and I had three years of fun and adventures together, until our younger brother Jack arrived in 2008, and since then we have made so many memories. I've been told ever since I could talk I was curious about everything around me and would ask so many questions and never stop talking.

I grew up in Stawell and was fortunate enough to live next to the Iron Barks Forest, so growing up we had so much fun going on bike rides and walks. I also grew up a few kilometres from my Grandparents house. I have so many amazing memories from swimming in their pool and exploring their farm with my siblings. A lot of my family lives in Warrnambool, we always go up to visit them. I always have the best time

with my cousins and some of my most favourite memories were made there, baking with my Nan was always a favourite.

I don't remember much from early childhood but I was always told how outgoing and sassy I was. I do remember bits from my years in kindergarten.

I went to Coinda Kindergarten in Stawell. This is where I met my childhood best friend and we are still good friends to this day, however we did get up to a bit of mischief together. In 2011 I started my schooling journey at St Patrick's Primary in Stawell, where I met even more very special friends. For me, Primary School was almost like another home with my mum being a teacher there. I would spend most afternoons after school waiting for my mum to finish work. I didn't mind though because there would be no rules and I could play on all the play equipment and we could do whatever we wanted.

Primary school is where I started playing netball at Great Western. I played there for 8 years.

Growing up I got many great opportunities, such as snow skiing, tennis, swimming, ballet and netball. We also had amazing holiday opportunities where we enjoyed cruises, Fiji, Queensland and Hamilton Island - anywhere hot. These holidays always landed on my birthday in September, so I was super lucky. Every year since I was born we went on our annual trip to Port Fairy for two weeks. We camped there up until a few years ago when we started staying in a house, we camped with our cousins and always had so much to do and we were never bored. We go to the beach everyday and every year we ride our bikes from Port Fairy to Koroit. For the first 10 years of my life we used to go camping out at Lake Fyans with a few of our family friends in the summer holidays, unfortunately the place where we stayed each year shut down a couple of years ago. We would have so much fun and spend our days water skiing, knee boarding, wakeboarding and on the biscuit, the biscuit was my favourite although depending on who was driving the boat it would be a bit dangerous, we would spend our nights having a barbeque and a night time swim.

Marian College has been quite the journey, with plenty of ups and downs, but amazing friendships have been made along the way. Since Year 7 I have been introduced to one of the most amazing and supportive teachers, Miss Kerwan who had such a positive impact on me and encouraged me to grow.

I am undecided for my plans in the future, but whatever I decide to pursue will be the right decision. I would like to thank all my amazing teachers at Marian college and all the people that made my high school experience joyful. I am so grateful for my friends and what they have done for me.

Thank you, Bel xx





# What has the J & D Group been up to?

Our lovely Justice and Democracy student group has been very active lately. Under the leadership of Annabelle and Fraser we have had a series of events and fundraisers.

## Harmony Day 21st March

We celebrated the cultural diversity of our school community with an out-of-uniform day. Students were asked to wear a touch of orange to show their commitment to inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. We raised \$407.90 from the student body and donated these funds to the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project.

## Be a good egg Easter raffle

Every Easter people enjoy buying and giving chocolate, but some of this chocolate is tainted by slavery. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions.

The J&D group is currently selling raffle tickets to win a hamper full of slavery-free chocolate. We are trying to raise awareness of the brands that consumers can support, to try to end the slavery involved in the chocolate industry.

Tickets are available from the J&D students for \$1 each or three tickets for \$2. Funds raised will be donated to ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans). The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 6th April.



**We encourage everyone to look for these logos when buying chocolate.**



## Project Compassion

Each TA has been given a Project Compassion box to collect donations for Caritas. Throughout Lent each year we raise funds for people living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. The generous support of our school community can help change lives today. Students and families can continue to donate up to the last day of term.

Mrs Tanya Waterson  
Social Justice Coordinator

## FROM YOUR HOUSE LEADER

Hello everyone,

Welcome to another edition of Synnott news.

We are fast approaching the end of an extremely busy term. We have had many camps and activities that have been filling up the weeks. It's a good time to reflect on just how much is on offer for the students here at Marian College. There are many experiences that are provided for the students. I'd like to thank them all for engaging in these, as well as thank all the staff who attend the events and give up their time.

Yesterday we held our annual athletics carnival. The weather was superb and Synnott House had an excellent number of participants for the day. As a result we managed to be the winning house! Everyone is very much pumped! Well done to Ruby and Bel as our House Leaders. It was a joy to see the excitement from all Synnott House students when the results were announced! Go Synnott!

I will be running the Year 11 camp in early term 2. The Melbourne experience is invaluable as it offers the students a chance to spend a few days in the city, learning to use public transport and visiting some great places. I'm really looking forward to heading away with the Year 11 group.

The Year 12's have a day of gathering to finish the term on Thursday. As a group, you have been so supportive of each other through a very hard time over the past few weeks. This will be an opportunity to spend the day together and finish the term as a group. Your strength and courage over the past number of weeks has been admirable. Remember to keep seeking support should you need it and always have open discussions with those you feel comfortable to do so.

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful person that Sophia was. Sophia has been a member of Synnott House since joining us at Marian College in Year 7. I taught her for PE that year and remember a student who was gifted in many ways, one of those being in a sporting sense. Sophia, you will be missed.

Many thanks for reading,  
Nick Lloyd  
Synnott House Leader.





# OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP





# Save the Dates

Wednesday 10th May  
1.00 pm to 8.00 pm

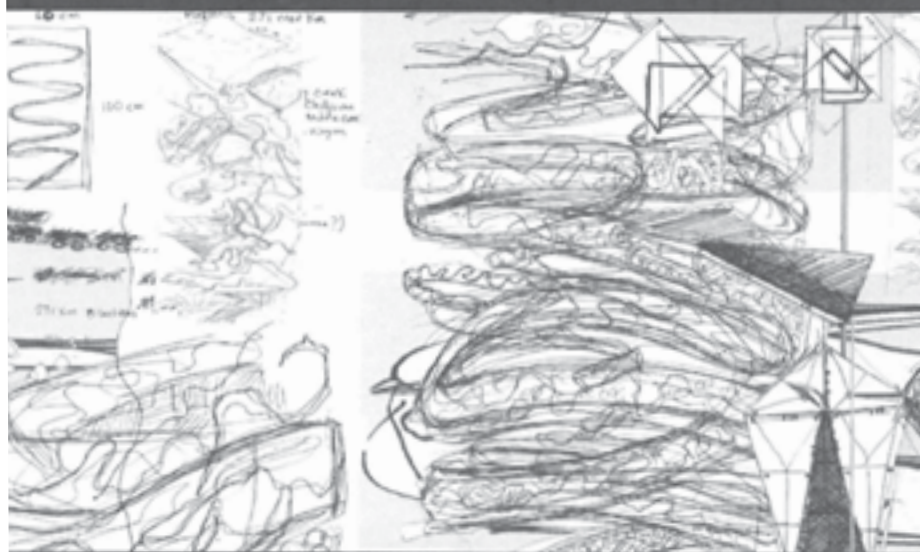
Parent Teacher Interviews  
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 16th May  
6.30 pm

Year 7 2024  
Information Evening

Full details will be provided  
early next term

**ararat gallery tama**





**School Holidays Workshop**  
With Artist W. Howard Brandenburg

Learn to Sketch Concepts and Compositions

**Thursday 20th April, 10am - 12pm**

Free entry  
Online bookings essential - [araratgallerytama.com.au](http://araratgallerytama.com.au)  
Ages 12+  
All materials provided

  A. 82 Vincent St, Ararat, VIC 3377  
T. +61 3 5359 9220  
E. [gallery@ararat.vic.gov.au](mailto:gallery@ararat.vic.gov.au)  
W. [araratgallerytama.com.au](http://araratgallerytama.com.au)

## ***GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL***



**Stawell CFA** would like your help to collect money for the Good Friday appeal on the 7th of April. Good Friday is a great day out for everyone and is a great cause. If you would like to participate sign ups open at 8:30 am on Friday at the Stawell Fire Station.

Thank you.



# Moyston Easter Market

9-2pm Easter Saturday

**April 8, 2023**

Moyston Oval, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd

- ▲ Over 50 Market Stalls of local artisan goods, preloved items, and handcrafted gifts.
- ▲ Vintage /Classic Car and Motorbike Display
- ▲ John Vanderwaal Long Kick Competition @11.00am
- ▲ Live Music
- ▲ Community BBQ
- ▲ Country Kitchen Devonshire Tea

- ▲ Coffee Vans
- ▲ Kids' Activities including FREE Easter Egg Trail
- ▲ CFA Firewood Raffle
- ▲ Doggo Refreshment Stations
- ▲ Ample Free Onsite Parking
- Gold coin donation goes towards Moyston Community Improvement

*Our sponsors*



Ararat Rural City



Stall bookings and enquiries contact Fiona 0418 366 362  
Email: moystoneastermarket@gmail.com

# School Holiday Term 1 Program

Enjoy the experience of creating, making and acquiring new art skills by enrolling in our Horsham Regional Art Gallery School Holiday Workshop Program for Term 1.



-  PAINTING WITH BELINDA
-  DRAWING WITH SHANE BOLAND
-  ECO PRINTING WITH RAE TALBOT

**REGISTER NOW**

**11-20 APRIL**

**AGES SEVEN AND OVER**

VISIT [WWW.HORSHAMTOWNHALL.COM.AU/HTHEVENT/SCHOOL-HOLIDAY-PROGRAM-TERM-1-2023/](http://WWW.HORSHAMTOWNHALL.COM.AU/HTHEVENT/SCHOOL-HOLIDAY-PROGRAM-TERM-1-2023/) FOR MORE INFO



# April 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL	5 LEGACY SHRINE EXCURSION	6 STATIONS OF THE CROSS (POSTPONED)  LAST DAY OF TERM 1 - EARLY DISMISSAL 2.15 pm	7 GOOD FRIDAY

## HOLIDAYS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	25 ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	26 STUDENTS COMMENCE TERM 2	27	28 STATE SWIMMING  INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

# May 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY	2	3	4	5 BLACK RANGES ATHLETICS
YEAR 11 CAMP				
8	9	10 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS 1.00 pm - 8.00 pm	11 BLACK RANGES CROSS COUNTRY	12