



Bendigo Special Developmental School

"A place of excellence in education that creates inclusive communities and success for all"

Newsletter # 13 – Friday 02 September 2022

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Principal: Kirshy McAinch
Assistant Principal: Dehne Anstee
School Council President: Leah Thomas
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TERM DATES 2022

Term 3, 2022	Term 4, 2022
Monday 11 th July – Friday 16 th September	Monday 03 rd October - Tuesday 20 th December

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday	8 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-to-Parent Meeting: Walk & Talk Departure at 09.10 am from the Kangaroo Flat Library
Thursday	8 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R U OK? Day
Monday	12 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Council Meeting at 7.00 pm
Friday	16 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAST DAY OF TERM 3 – EARLY FINISH AT 2 PM



Our Values

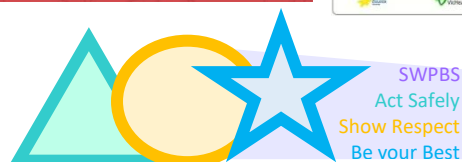
Driving learning growth

Valuing diversity with kindness and respect

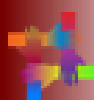
Uniting to achieve excellence

Ensuring equity of opportunity

Bendigo Special Developmental School community respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays its respects to the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal peoples



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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



ROYAL YOUTH AMBASSADOR (RYA) PROGRAM

Congratulations to Mackenzie (Macca) Scoles and Laura Murray who represented our school, special schools, and themselves brilliantly at the recent Rural Youth Ambassador Forum in Melbourne on 29th and 30th of August.

The Rural Youth Ambassador (RYA) program brings together passionate and diverse rural young people, to develop their leadership skills, grow knowledge and establish a representative voice for all rural young people. The program runs annually, within each state and territory of Australia. Each year, a new Ambassador cohort is created in each state, consisting of young people from across the country who attend rural schools. Generally, Year 11 pupils are nominated by their schools to participate in the program, which lasts 12 months.

This is the first year that students from special schools have been included in the program. Laura and Macca joined students from EchUCA Twin Rivers Special School, Swan Hill Specialist School, and Maryborough Education Centre at the Victorian Forum, which culminated in them presenting their thoughts and ideas to a number of Victorian Government Ministers of Tuesday afternoon. They will continue to work collaboratively with the students from other schools across the year to continue creating a film presentation that is based on their experiences of growing up in a rural area, which will then be presented to government, the education sector and key stakeholder groups.

Laura and Macca showed their incredible maturity and ability to work within a team to communicate and idea. They also showed their compassion and empathy and community minded spirit, by communicating about how

services such as public transport, could better support people with disabilities.

We are so looking forward to seeing the film that Laura and Macca create!

THANK YOU, KANGAROO FLAT ROTARY!

Thank you so much to President Mathew and the members of the Kangaroo Flat Rotary Club for their amazing donation of \$1000.00 that I had the pleasure of receiving at their dinner on Monday 28th August 2022.

Throughout the year the Rotary Club run a number of events to raise funds. We have several staff who have assisted at these events, and we will be seeking volunteers from our school community to assist with the catering over the infamous Swap Meet weekend, which will be held at the Bendigo Showgrounds on 12-13th November 2022. This will be a great fundraising opportunity for our school also.

We are so grateful to be asked to be a part of this by the Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat, who have been great supporters of our school for a number of years. The \$1000 donated will be used to buy 'adaptive switches', which is technology that allows students to operate electronic devices. These switches support student communication and access to varying learning experiences within the curriculum.

Thank you again Kangaroo Flat Rotary Club.

PARENT PAYMENTS – VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Government schools, as ours is, in Victoria provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

We want to thank all parents and carers that have paid the suggested voluntary Curriculum Contributions amount of \$360 for this year. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs and equipment we can offer.





These contributions allow the school to support a wider range of special curriculum experiences and enhanced digital learning opportunities.

We use this money to fund classroom materials and equipment, online subscriptions to learning platforms and communication tools such as Boardmaker and SeeSaw as well as funding whole school event days. It allows us to update our ICT devices and software and therapy equipment. At Bendigo SDS, we make every effort to keep the contribution requests to a minimum and affordable for all parents and carers. Additionally, we have a range of payment options such as Centrepay, EFTPOS, and direct debit, to allow for payment over the course of the year.

If you would like further information about our voluntary financial contributions, please contact the office.

PARENT AND CARER OPINION SURVEY

A reminder to please completed the Parent and Carer Opinion Survey. The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of our school environment, our learning programs and student engagement. We encourage all families to participate in this survey. At this moment, only 6 people have completed it!! We would like to hear from you all.

Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey will be open for your comments until Friday 16th September.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets, or smartphones.

Please go to this website

<https://www.orima.com.au/parent>

And enter our unique school PIN **541084**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

As we celebrate Father's Day this week, I was reflecting on how we know how critical the role models in our students' lives are, and yet we don't always give them the credit they deserve, until a special day on the calendar. Sometimes it is also difficult for our students to tell the people who are close to them, how much they really do mean to them. They may not say "I love and appreciate you", but they do want to be near you, relax when you are around, feel safe in your presence, appreciate you knowing what they are thinking, and are so grateful for your relentless love and care. So, this Sunday, I wish every Dad, Step Dad, Grandpa, Pa, Poppy, Opa, Uncle, Brother and friends of our students, a wonderful day, and pay tribute to the huge influence and the positive significance that you play in their lives and in our school community every day of the year, not just on Father's Day!

Kirshy McAinch
Principal



On behalf of all our students, staff and the whole school community, we would like to express our gratitude to the **ROTARY CLUB OF KANGAROO FLAT.**

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$1000 to our school.

Your donation will go towards the purchase of very specialised communication 'switches' for our students.





BUSES



BUS	DRIVER / CHAPERONE	TELEPHONE
Heathcote	Gary & Jodie	0435 900 890
Huntly	Helen, Nicole & Chloe	0428 261 802
Fryerstown/Castlemaine	David & Debbie	0409 421 500
Kyneton	Steve & Joanne	0428 236 271
Lockwood	David & Kim	0428 271 824
Strathfieldsaye	Steve & Joy	0427 287 843
Serpentine	Peter & Janine	0497 663 736
Spring Gully	Chris & Heather	0428 159 660
Wedderburn	Cathy & Michelle	0466 367 656



BIRTHDAYS



07 September	Jenny	Health & PE	07 September	Stella	ESS
10 September	Wayne	Room 21	11 September	Helen	Room 1
12 September	Megan	Physiotherapist	13 September	Nikki R.	ESS

Happy Birthday

Our Values



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growth

Valuing diversity with
kindness and respect

Uniting to achieve
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WELLBEING SUPPORT TEAM



FEEL LIKE A LEISURELY WALK AND A CHAT?

Come and join us on Thursday 8th September for our Parent-to-Parent meeting and bring your walking shoes.

We will leave from the Kangaroo Flat Library at 09.10 am
We'll enjoy a cuppa when we return ☺

We have some new ventures we would like to share with you and we'd like to hear more about your thoughts on our recent guardianship session.

If you have any holiday activities and ideas, please feel free to share.

Look forward to catching up!

If you're not up for a casual walk, you are more than welcome to wait for us in the library for our chat session.

Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday 8th September.

Meg and Drew.





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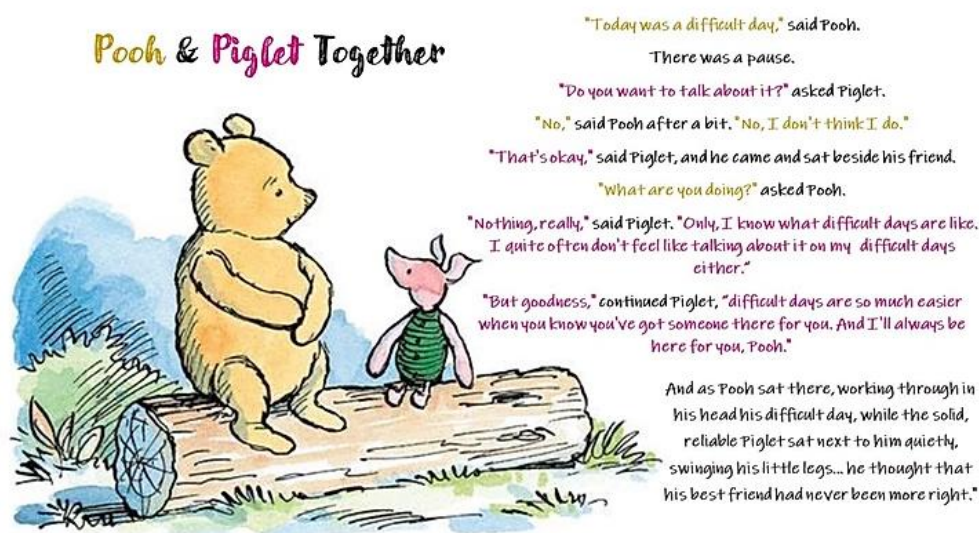
Hello parents, carers, students & staff 😊

On **Thursday the 8th of September** it will be R U OK? Day in Australia. This is a day focussed on harm prevention and mental health promotion as it encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times in their lives.

Their work aims to build the motivation, confidence, and skills of the person able to have meaningful conversations with someone who may be struggling in their life.

R U OK? Contributes to suicide prevention efforts by encouraging people to invest more time in their personal relationships and building the capacity of informal support networks – friends, families, and colleagues – to be alert to those around them, have a conversation if they identify signs of distress or difficulty and connect someone to appropriate support, long before they're in crisis.

At Bendigo SDS, we will be acknowledging and showing our support for this day by **wearing a touch of yellow** on this day and participating in some classroom activities such as making yellow stress balls to go with the theme. In addition to activities, an important part of our learning during this week will be a focus on how we can communicate our feelings and how we can ask friends and family members 'Are You Okay?'.



If you would like to find out more about the day or are in need of some supports yourself, visit this website and check out what they have to offer 😊 <https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day>

Take care and have a great weekend,

Meg Holmes (Family Support)

Drew Barrett (Mental Health Practitioner)





WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

Wear It Purple Day – Friday August 26th

Last Friday our school enjoyed dressing up in our best **Rainbow colours** and celebrating Wear It Purple Day for a second year running.

Wear It Purple is a crucial day on our wellbeing calendar in celebrating diversity, promoting mental health, and showing our support for all LGBTQIA+ community. This day has been formed out of a history of hardship and lack of acceptance for LGBTQIA+ young people, contributing to much higher prevalence of mental health conditions and struggles to this day. The significance of celebrating this day is creating a safe and supportive environment for all families, students and staff at our school, ensuring that everybody feels welcome and accepted.

We were blessed to have some lovely sunny weather on Friday where students and staff could enjoy some dance parties and face painting during play times. Our students also participated in a whole school art project, with all classrooms contributing small colourful squares to create a Rainbow Snake in the student services building. This art project symbolises the diversity of our school and celebrates the many different colours and backgrounds that contribute to our great community.

Below are some fun snaps from the day, and the wonderful art piece that was created 😊

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ART PROJECT:

THE **RAINBOW** SNAKE





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FUNDRAISER COMING UP !!!



RAISE SOME Dough

 **Bendigo Special Developmental School**

Domino's Kangaroo Flat will be donating \$1 from every pizza and 50cents from every garlic-bread sold on Friday September 16th to support the Bendigo Special Developmental School!

What: \$1 per pizza & 50c per garlic bread sold

Where: Domino's Kangaroo Flat

When: Friday September 16th

Time: 11am – 11pm

 **DOWNLOAD**
THE DOMINO'S ORDERING APP
📞 131 888 [dominos.com.au](https://www.dominos.com.au)

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KANGAROO FLAT LIBRARY NEWS

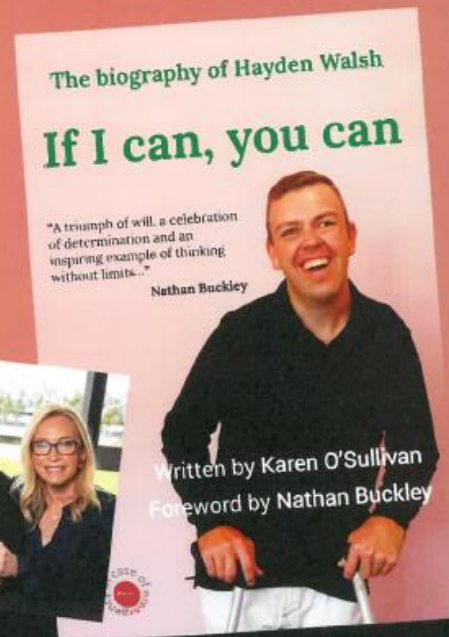
KAREN O'SULLIVAN: IF I CAN, YOU CAN

If I can, you can is a love story, and the life story of Hayden Walsh, a 30-year-old Kyneton man who lives with cerebral palsy. Hayden is a partner, father and disability advocate whose life journey has been filled with physical, mental and emotional challenges. With an infectious smile and contagious zest for life, Hayden has overcome countless hurdles becoming a role model and inspiration for those he encounters. Come along and meet Hayden and author Karen O'Sullivan.

Book sales and signings.

THU 1 DEC, 10-11AM
KANGAROO FLAT LIBRARY

Book online at
www.goldfieldslibraries.com



Goldfields
Libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

SCOPE – SOCIAL GROUP

WE'RE EXCITED!

**Open to ALL NDIS Recipients,
Fully staffed, After Hours Programs
at Kangaroo Flat!**

'SOCIAL GROUP'

Games - current events - dinner & chat - craft - And more!

Bookings
essential
Limited numbers.

RSVP:
Kylie Rowe
krowe2@scopeaust.org.au
0448401038



**Thursday evenings
5pm-8pm**

Bring along your dinner.
Meet at 2/16 Lockwood Rd
Kangaroo Flat, Scope
Group sessions with support ratios of 1:2 -1:4.
Group will need to be included in service agreement.

New participants always welcome.

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SCOPE BENDIGO – OPEN DAY, SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER



The poster features a festive banner of colorful triangles at the top. The Scope logo is in the top right corner. The main title 'Scope Bendigo Open Day!' is in large blue font, followed by the subtitle 'Come and try what Scope Bendigo Lifestyle Options has to offer'. The text describes interactive demonstrations including cooking, art, gaming, and computers, and mentions that the event is free and welcomes all ages and abilities. A list of activities (Face painting, Balloons and bubbles, Fairy floss, Popcorn and Snow cones, Prizes, and more!) is enclosed in an orange circle. A map shows the location at the intersection of Lockwood Rd and High St. Illustrations at the bottom depict a woman painting a child's face, a man with a popcorn cart, and two children holding balloons.

Scope Bendigo Open Day!
Come and try what Scope Bendigo Lifestyle Options has to offer

Interactive demonstrations including cooking, art, gaming and computers. Plus, plenty of fun for the whole family!

Chat to staff about the NDIS and programs on offer at Scope Bendigo. This free event welcomes all ages and abilities. Please share with your family and friends.

We can't wait to meet you!

Date: Sunday, 11 September
Time: 10am – 2pm
Location: 2/16 Lockwood Rd, Kangaroo Flat, 3555
More details contact Kylie on 0448 401 038.

Face painting
Balloons and bubbles
Fairy floss, Popcorn and Snow cones
Prizes, and more!

scope

Lockwood Rd High St

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ALL ABILITIES GOLD – 7 & 14 SEPTEMBER

Come & Try All-Abilities Golf



NEANGAR PARK
GOLF CLUB | BENDIGO

Neangar Park Golf Club would like to invite people with a disability to come along and try golf!

- Learn new skills and have fun.
- Sessions are provided by All-Abilities trained instructors.
- No experience or equipment needed.

Dates:

Wednesday 31 August 2022
Wednesday 7 September 2022
Wednesday 14 September 2022

Time:

10.00am - 11.00am

Venue:

Neangar Park Golf Club
Averys Rd. North Bendigo

Cost:

\$10 per session



For more information and to register please contact Jasmine Noske from Sports Focus on 5442 3101 or email jasminen@sportsfocus.com.au

or visit: <https://bit.ly/NeangarParkAA>

Is this activity right for me?

Uneven ground covering with rocks and grassed areas

Parents/carers/ guardians are encouraged to join in

Toilets are accessible

All-Abilities trained facilitators



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