



Bendigo Special Developmental School  
"A place of excellence in education that creates  
inclusive communities and success for all"

NEWSLETTER #7  
FRIDAY 30TH MAY  
2025

**PRINCIPAL:**  
KIRSHY MCAINCH  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**  
REBECCA QUINN



26-32 LOCKWOOD RD, KANGAROO FLAT, VIC, 3550



WWW.BENDIGOSDS.VIC.EDU.AU

BENDIGO.SDS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU



@BENDIGOSPECIALDEVELOPMENTALSCHOOL



03 5447 3267



03 5447 7286

## TERM DATES

### TERM 2

Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 4th July

### TERM 3

Monday 21st July - Friday 19th  
September

# SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday 27th May - Tuesday 3rd June**

Reconciliation Week  
"Bridging Now to Next"

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Mabo Day

**Monday 9th June**

King's Birthday - Public Holiday  
*NO SCHOOL*

**Friday 4th July**

Last Day of Term 2 - 2pm Finish

**Sunday 6th - Sunday 13th July**

NAIDOC Week



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

**Bridging  
Now to  
Next**



**THE NEXT  
GENERATION:  
STRENGTH,  
VISION &  
LEGACY**  
6-13 JULY 2025



**KING'S  
BIRTHDAY  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025

#### OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING  
GROWTH

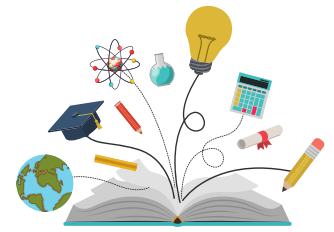
UNITING TO ACHIEVE  
EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF  
OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH  
KINDNESS AND RESPECT



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



## ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (EMIP) ANNOUNCED

It will be no surprise to anyone in our school community that we are getting very squashed onsite! The building process, whilst exciting, has added to the pressure we have felt, with limited play space and with every single room being used for learning, whether it is the official 'purpose' of the room or not.

Our steadily growing enrolment numbers have continued to challenge our ability to provide a safe, engaging and enriched learning environment for all students. Those who have been a part of the school community for a while will remember that initially our new school was going to be build for 155 students. When the School Council challenged this figure, a revised Project Enrolment Number (PEN) was set at 168 students. At the moment, we have 169 students enrolled at Bendigo SDS.

As a result of our school enrolments exceeding the number of students that our current facilities are designed to cater for, our school has been given a directive to comply with an Enrolment Management Implementation Plan for the remainder of the 2025 schooling year. Our directive for the EMIP is that our enrolment cannot exceed 169 students, meaning that no further enrolments can be processed in our school at the moment. I am currently working with the regional office to develop a waiting list process, including a policy that will identify what and how students on that list will be prioritised for enrolment. Once that has been finalised, I will send it out to all families, and it will also be published on our website.

I want to assure you that all children who are currently enrolled will not face any new scrutiny about meeting the eligibility requirements save for the already established review structures within the Department's policy.

These are as follows:

- An initial assessment to determine eligibility
- A reassessment after two years from the initial assessment if a provisional diagnosis was given
- A new assessment to test for ongoing eligibility in the year a student turns 12, or,
- An assessment at a time advised by the Department of Education should the student's enrolment be of a conditional nature (non-standard enrolment).

I urge anyone who is concerned about the current circumstances of their child's enrolment to contact me and I will be able to clarify where your child sits in that cycle, or if you have any questions for concerns about the EMIP.

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# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## BRIDGING TO NEXT: RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

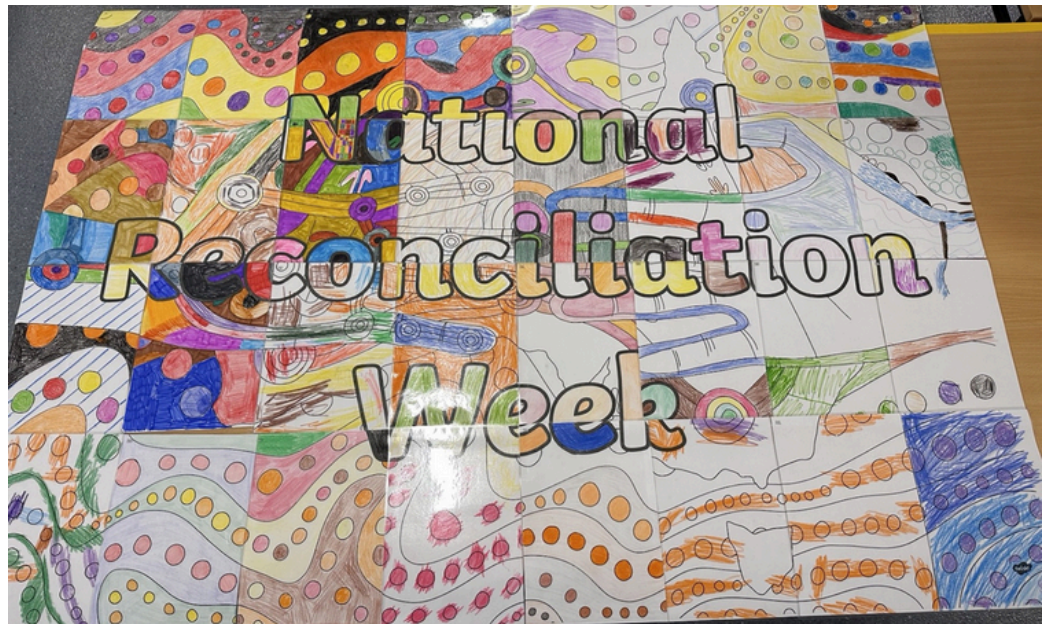
Today it was a privilege to host our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families for a Yarning Circle to share with them the finer details of an incredible partnership that we have developed with Djandak, the landscape architectural business of the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation. Djandak means land, in Djarli, the Dja Dja Wurrung language, and today, their team, as well as our Koori Education Support Officers Bonnie and Jessie, Elder Auntie Vicki and Georgia, the Landscape Architect from Djandak spent time sharing the Design Guide for our new school which will incorporate Dja Dja Wurrung culture and perspectives into our school environment and learning spaces.

For us, this a wonderful way to embrace the theme of Reconciliation week, as we work to build a stronger, safer and more respectful future for our First Nations students and their families.

I will share these details with you all in the next newsletter!



Check out some lovely work created by our students in recognition of Reconciliation Week 2025!



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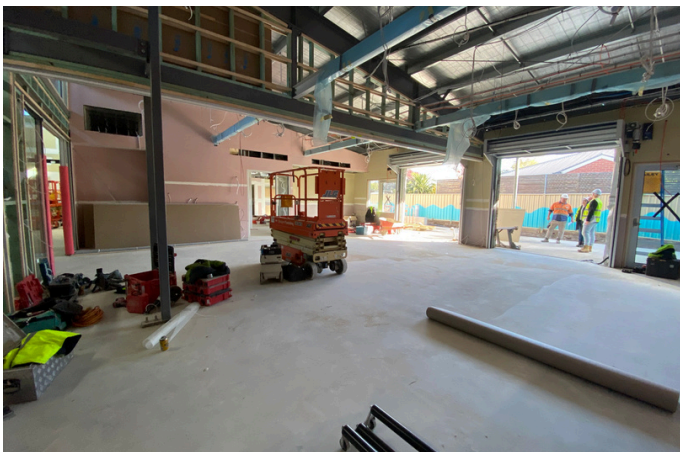




# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Speaking of our new building, it is so exciting to see the classrooms, learning spaces, and office and meeting spaces taking shape. Check out these photos of the carpentry going in and the plastering of the walls in the bathroom spaces nearing completion, ready to be fitted out by the plumbers.



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# BUSES

BUS	DRIVER/CHAPERONE	TELEPHONE
HEATHCOTE	GARY & JODIE	0435 900 890
HUNTLY	HELEN & NICOLE	0428 261 802
FRYERSTOWN/CASTLEMAINE	DAVID & JULIE	0409 421 500
KYNETON	LENNY & JOANNE	0490 093 472
LOCKWOOD	ANGELA & KIM	0490 092 273
STRATHFIELDSAYE	STEVE & TRISH	0490 705 019
SERPENTINE	PETER & JANINE	0497 663 736
SPRING GULLY	CHRIS & HEATHER	0490 702 728
WEDDERBURN	BERNARD & MICHELLE	0466 367 656



We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for all the donations of second hand uniforms our families have brought in. These uniforms go towards other families in need of something new.

Thank you so much!



# *HAPPY* BIRTHDAY

27 May	Jack	Room 1	28 May	Seth	Room 12
29 May	Georgian	Room 23	31 May	Oscar	Room 2
1 June	Chloe	Room 13	2 June	Dylan	Room 12B
2 June	Tasman	Room 21	5 June	Yasmin	Teacher
5 June	Jacob	Room 20	7 June	Grae	Room 6
9 June	Trevor	Teacher	12 June	Able	Room 19





# ATTENTION!

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

**URGENT** messages must be communicated to the school by contacting the front office via phone.

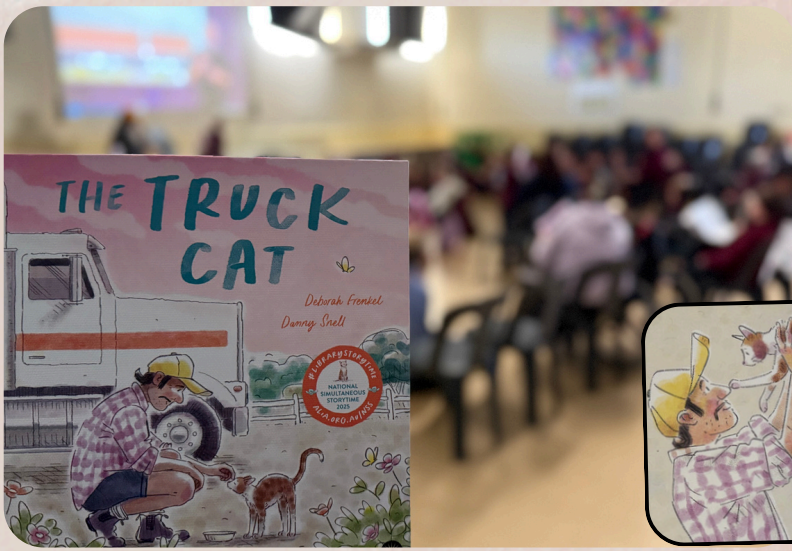
**Urgent messages relate to:**  
changes to a student's bus routine  
changes to a student's OHSC attendance  
changes to drop off and pick up arrangements

Please **DO NOT** send urgent messages to staff via email, mobile phone or Class Dojo. This is not the correct way to communicate and your message will probably not be seen in time.

Non-urgent messages can be communicated by sending an email to [bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au), by leaving a voicemail or sending an absence notification on the Sentral Parent Portal.

Thank you for your understanding.





# National Simultaneous Storytime 2025 at Bendigo SDS



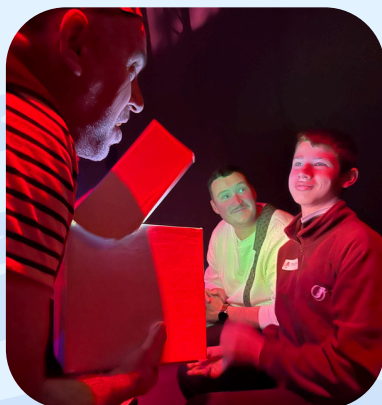




# **Rooms 21 & 23**

## **WONDERBOX by Sensorium**

### **Theatre Excursion**





# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

## CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>





# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

## APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

### Parent/carer details

Surname	
First Name	
Address	
Town/Suburb	
State and Postcode	
Contact Number	

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

   -    -    -  **OR**

☐ Foster Parent\* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\*\*

\*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

\*\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

### Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2025

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

### Criteria 1 - Eligibility

To be eligible\* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term 1; or
  - on the first day of Term 2.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; or
- b) Be a temporary foster parent; and
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

\* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF): Eligibility | [education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au)

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

### Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between 6 and 17 years of age inclusive. For the purposes of

CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between 5 and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students' attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

#### Eligibility date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au)).

## Payment amounts

### CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

The CSEF is paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the policy for the current rates.

**For ungraded students**, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

[Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](http://education.vic.gov.au)

**Foundation and Year 7 government school students** who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.



## How to complete the application form

**Note: all sections must be completed by parent/carer**

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

**Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.**

## Privacy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to protecting your privacy. All information collected will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). Your data is securely managed and only shared with third parties when necessary for business operations or legal compliance. By submitting this form, you consent to our data practices. For more information regarding correction to your personal information or the handling of personal information please email [csef@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:csef@education.vic.gov.au). For more information about the departments privacy policy, please visit: [Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](https://schools.privacy.policy.vic.gov.au)

# CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Dear families and carers,

We would like to let you know that for the families who choose to pay the Curriculum Contribution & Other Contribution fees, they can now be claimed as a Tax Deduction.

Please let the school know if you require a receipt for tax purposes.

**You can contact us via phone, 03 5447  
3267 or email,  
[bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au)**

# Footwear tips With orthotics



## Correct size

You might need to buy a bigger size to fit orthotics, but try don't buy too big!

## Stiff heel and sole

You should not be able to squash the heel down or bend the shoe in half

## Firm fastening

Velcro or laces are better than elastics or zips (more important for insoles than AFOs)

## Removable innersole

If you need more space for orthotics, taking out the inner sole can help

## Light

Choose a shoe that is lightweight

## Shaped toe area

For active kids a shaped rather than wide toe area makes running and jumping easier

## Runners

Running shoes typically fit these characteristics

## Large opening

Being able to fully open the shoe makes it easier to get on and off

## Ideas:

Everyhuman -  
Joggers/GOAT/Incusion Too  
Billy for less active kids  
New Balance - wide fit options  
Asics  
Kmart/Big W with above considerations



# NDIS Therapist Enquiry

1

## Enquiry for NDIS input at school

Parent/carer or service provider asks any staff member for NDIS service provider to visit a student at school.  
Note as per school policy, 'rule of thumb':

- Need reasonable goals and alignment of input of visit
- Maximum school visit once/term
- No regular ongoing input at school



2

## Email enquiry to office

Staff member (or student's teacher) emails NDIS query to office with provider details [bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au)  
Inform parent/carer/provider of process.



3

## Office sends policy and forms to provider

Office staff will email NDIS provider (And CC class teacher and therapy and behaviour team):

- NDIS policy
- NDIS request form



4

## Forms returned & teacher informed

NDIS provider complete and return to office:

- NDIS request form
- Required documents (working with children check, registration and insurance details)

Office electronically files forms and informs teacher that appointment can be booked



5

## Teacher books appointment time & liaise with school therapists

Teacher liaises with NDIS provider and school therapists/behaviour team as appropriate.

Teacher books time for provider to visit student and adds visit details to school calendar on Sentral



**NDIS providers are unable to visit students at school if forms are not returned and appointment pre arranged. If they arrive and refused entry they will still bill families.**

## School Saving Bonus



# HAVE YOU USED YOUR \$400 SCHOOL SAVING BONUS YET?

If you wish to use your School Saving Bonus towards your student/s school (winter) uniforms, please visit  
**Centavic Clothing.**

Trading Hours: Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm

2/1 Whip Court, Long Gully, VIC 3550

[sales@centavicclothing.com.au](mailto:sales@centavicclothing.com.au)

03 5441 7555

<https://www.centavicclothing.com.au/>

If you wish to make an appointment for fitting uniforms you can book online on their website. Otherwise, you are welcome to walk in during trading hours.

Please note you will need to take your School Saving Bonus code to Centavic to claim the \$400.

Your School Saving Bonus code has been sent to you in an email directly from the Department of Education.

You will be able to purchase school uniforms using your School Saving Bonus until 30th June 2025.

After 30th June the remaining balance of your School Saving Bonus will automatically go towards your child's future school activities and/or excursions.





## Online session: Pathways to Post School Life

Join us for an informative online session on Pathways to post school life.

**Presentation:** When an NDIS participant leaves school, there are a number of pathways and supports available to help young people build skills to prepare for their transition from school, and support them in achieving employment and other goals. Their choice depends on their aspirations, skills, abilities and interests.

This session is offered over multiple dates to allow flexibility for attendees. Each session will cover the same content. Sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams.

For any enquiries regarding this session, please contact [ndisnavigators@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ndisnavigators@education.vic.gov.au)

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**Where:** Virtual information sessions delivered via Microsoft Teams

**Dates & Times:**

**Tuesday, 24 June 2025 (10:00m-11:00am AEST)**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 489 995 434 121 6

Passcode: ga3aR9kL

**Wednesday, 25 June 2025 (7:00pm-8:00pm AEST)**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 422 521 991 848 4

Passcode: vL3Cv2Dy

**Thursday, 26 June 2025 (10:00am -11:00am AEST)**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 414 269 567 129 8

Passcode: xk7eF32Y

[www.microsoft.com/en-au/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting](https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)

# PEASANT GOURMET COOKING CLASSES



**Come along and learn how to cook flexible, frugal and nourishing one course dishes from around the world in the community kitchen at The Old Church on the Hill!**



## **WHEN:**

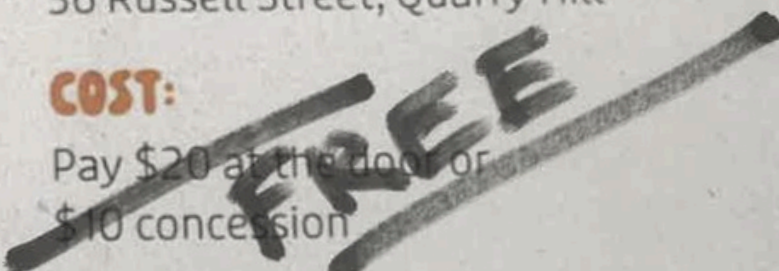
- Thursday May 8 at 10am-1pm
- Thursday May 29 at 10am-1pm

## **WHERE:**

The Old Church on the Hill  
Neighbourhood House,  
36 Russell Street, Quarry Hill

## **COST:**

Pay \$20 at the door or  
\$10 concession



## **BOOKINGS:**

Email [rose@collective.org.au](mailto:rose@collective.org.au)  
(numbers limited)



**STAY**  
**WARM!**

