



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

[heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Issue No. 33

7th November 2025

**At Heathcote PS we value... Respect Learning Teamwork Responsibility**

*We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

### 2025 - What's Happening?

Week 6	Monday 10th November	Grade 5/6 Community Health Puberty Session (details home)
	Wednesday 12th November	School Council @ 5:30pm
	Thursday 13th November	Grade 5/6 STEM incursion
	Friday 14th November	Foundation 2026 transition session #3 and whole school transition morning #2 (9:15am—11am)
Week 7	Friday 21st November	Grade 6 Tech School excursion (details to come)
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday 24th November</b>	<b>Curriculum Day — student free day</b>
Week 9 & Week 11	Tuesday 2nd December, Monday 15th December to Thursday 18th December	Swimming—Group 2 (Foundation, Grade 1 & 2 students)
Week 9	Wednesday 3rd December	Grade 6 Celebration excursion (details to come)
	Friday 5th December	Christmas Concert—Save the Date! (in the afternoon during school hours, details to come)
Week 10	Tuesday 9th December	Whole School Transition Day (all day)
	Thursday 11th December	Grade 6 Graduation (after school, details to come)
Week 11	Friday 19th December	End of Term 4. Early Dismissal @ 1:30pm

### 2025 - What's Due?

Grade 5/6 STEM incursion media consent form

F—2 swimming consent form and swimming level form

# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Luna Ava S	Reynald Noah F Ben D Ben J	Cooper Heidi Jack R Jayden	Jeerapatra Yahya April Zara

Jeerapatra - Learning Award for staying focused on learning.

Yahya - Learning Award for being prepared to have a go.

April - Learning Award for staying focused on learning.

Zara - Learning Award for being prepared to have a go.

Cooper - Responsibility Award for looking after equipment properly.

Reynald - Respect Award for acknowledging own effort.

Noah F - Respect Award for treating others with respect.

Ben D - Respect Award for always using your manners.

Luna - Teamwork Award for listening to other people's thoughts and opinions.

Heidi - Responsibility Award for being a great role model for other students.

Ben J - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Jack R - Responsibility Award for being a great role model for other students.

Ava S - Teamwork Award for encouraging others.

Jayden - Responsibility Award for representing our school in a responsible manner.

Awards are presented at our weekly whole school assembly on Friday

These awards were presented at assembly on 7/11/25

**\*\*Assembly starts at 2:30pm\*\***

# AWARDS

## TEAMWORK

## RESPECT

## RESPONSIBILITY

## LEARNING

### BRONZE LEVEL

Salwa

### SILVER LEVEL

Pippa

Aldane

Logan J

George H

Charlie

Creed

Noah Bu

Malachi

Ernie

Lawrence

George H

Charlie

Noah F

Anastasia

Cierra

Ace

Reynald

Tauri

Ashley

Hazel C

William D

Em-Rose

Yahya

Ellie

Noah F

Mark

Ana

Timoci

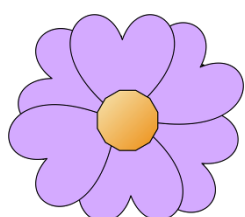
### GOLD LEVEL

Pippa

Pippa

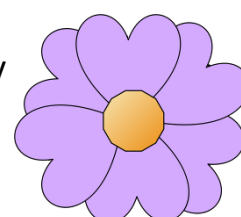
## *Kindness Ambassador Award*

Students who consistently demonstrate acts of kindness, compassion and empathy towards others, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.



**Rachel** - You have been seen demonstrating kindness by supporting friends who were having a hard time.

**Hailee** - For being kind and caring towards others when they need a friend.



# READING AWARDS

125 Nights

Charlie



150 Nights

George J

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ernie

Ruby



*Students have the option of wearing casual clothes to school on their birthday  
(or the closest school day to their birthday if their birthday falls on the weekend or in the school holidays)*

**JUNIOR UNIT**

**Zooper Dooper Fundraiser**

**WHEN:**  
1:30-1:45PM

**\$1.00 EACH**

**WHERE:**  
TURF AREA

**EVERYDAY DURING WEEK 7, 8 AND 9.**

AT 2<sup>ND</sup> BREAK BEFORE THE FROG NOISE ALL STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE A ZOOPER DOOPER FROM A JUNIOR UNIT MEMBER OR A PEER MEDIATOR.

MONEY RAISED GOES TO OUR JUNIOR UNIT LITTLE LEARNERS LOVE LITERACY BOOK RESOURCE COLLECTION



## Principal's Report

This week we are celebrating the efforts and creativity of all students who worked hard to complete an artwork to share with the local community at the Heathcote Show. A shout out to Mrs Skipper for leading the art program and guiding our young artists. Please see pages six, seven and eight for photos of award winning masterpieces.

Our whole school assemblies are an opportunity to celebrate achievements related to our values. It is always a joy to see the pride on a student's face as they accept their certificate from a school leader. This week, we also spoke about how lots of people have been helping others in small ways and how lots of small things have a big impact. We thanked people for their small acts of kindness, initiative and thoughtfulness, including:

- Foundation, Grade 1 and 2s volunteering to pick up rogue pieces of rubbish. We had two groups present at assembly and we celebrated the reduced rubbish being spotted in the yard. Well done to everyone for helping to look after our outside spaces.
- Grade 3/4s noticing that the sandpit toys and tools needed to be put out at the start of the break and then making sure they were all packed away at the end.
- People making sure that bikes and helmets are stored safely and neatly in the bike shed .

The Kindness Award at assembly is a much coveted honour. Thursday 13th November is World Kindness Day. On this day, people are encouraged to perform both small and large acts of kindness in their communities and beyond. Recently, a Grade 5 student excitingly told me how he has decided that he will help put down the chairs in the Foundation classroom before school each morning—a perfect example of a random act of kindness!



As we head towards the end of the school year, it is also a time when students and teachers reflect more formally on student achievements across curriculum areas. I'm looking to the celebratory theme continuing as learning growth is celebrated through the end of year reports and communication books.



Each week, students participate in an Auslan lesson with Zali, our Auslan teacher. Zali also runs an Auslan club at Break 1. Last week, the theme was Mr Potato Head. It was lovely to see students sitting in a circle on the turf enjoying each others company, communicating in Auslan and creating little potato characters.

With many special events in the calendar, the last few weeks of term are sure to fly. Please keep an eye on the front page of the newsletter, along with Compass notifications and emails for information about upcoming events.



**Heathcote Primary School**  
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

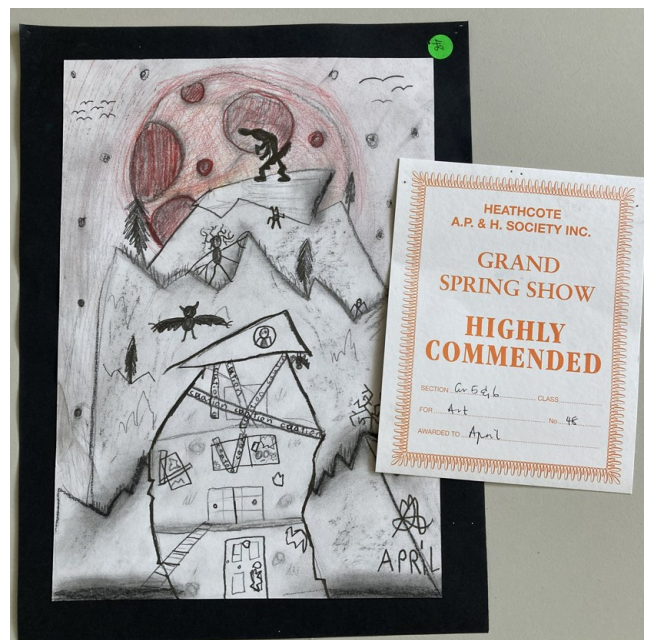
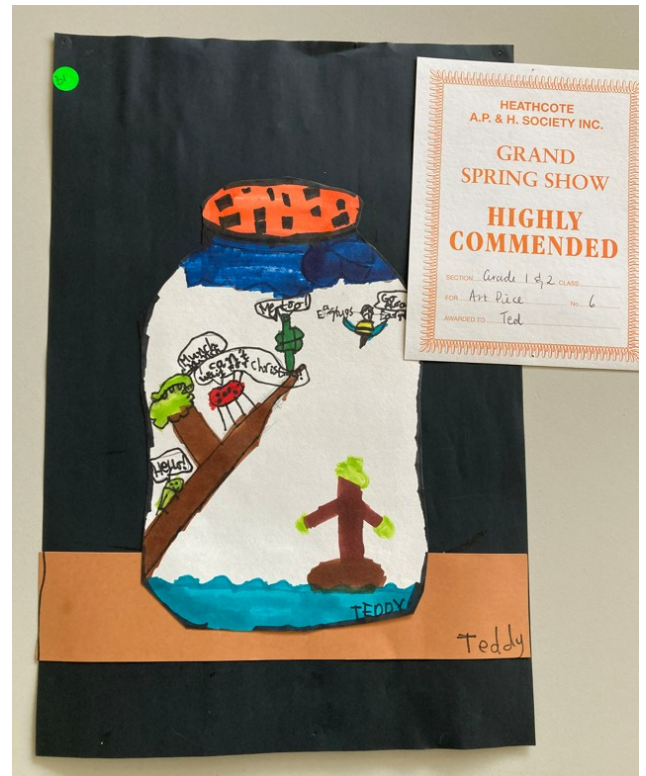
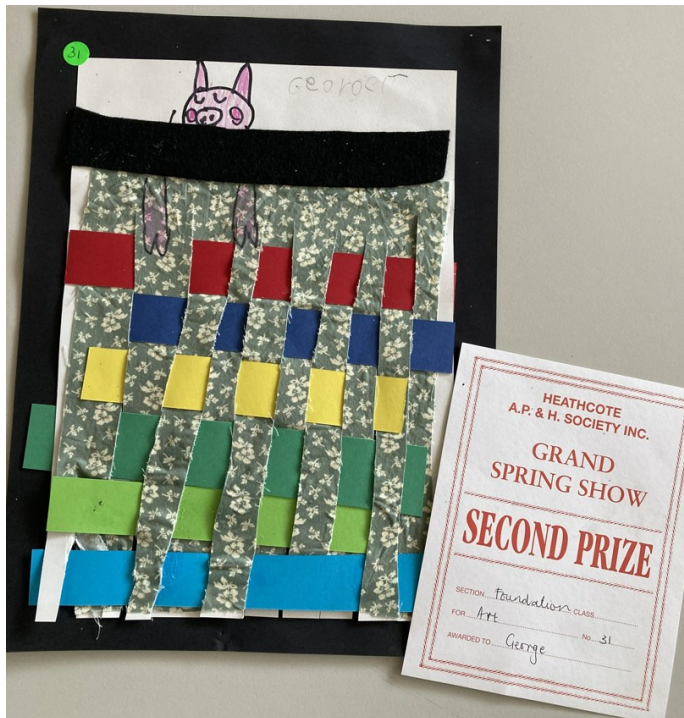


# Learning—Art



Heathcote Primary School  
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**HEATHCOTE SHOW**  
TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER  
MELBOURNE CUP DAY **2025**



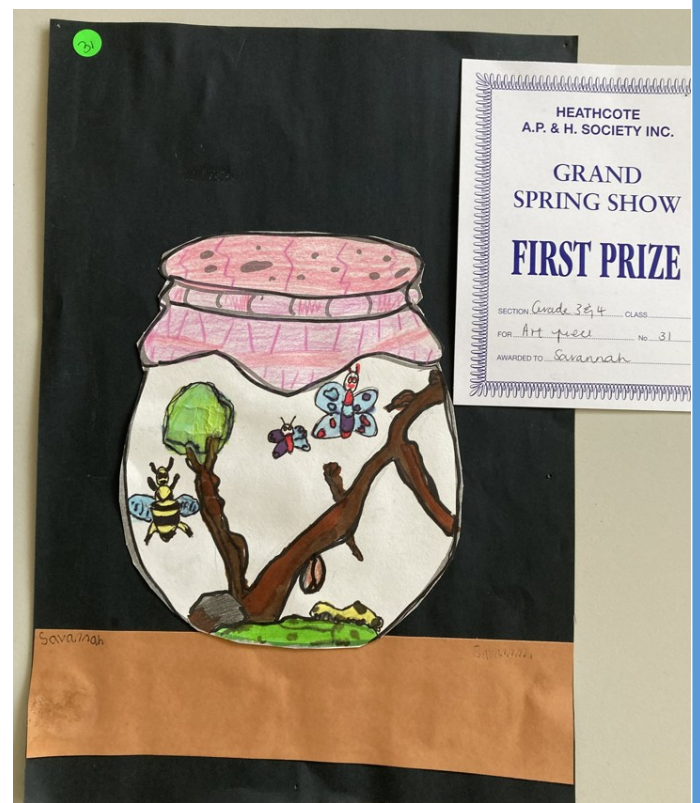
Congratulations to our young artists who had work on display at the Heathcote Show. All students worked hard to create a piece to share with the local community and some artworks were recognised with awards. Thank you to Mrs Skipper for leading our art program and guiding students in the creation of their masterpieces.



# Learning—Art



Heathcote Primary School  
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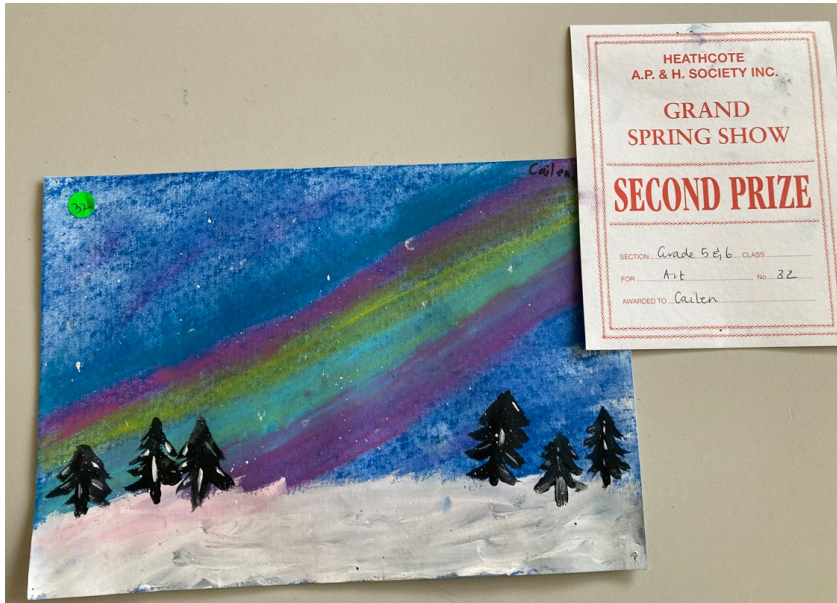
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# Learning—Art

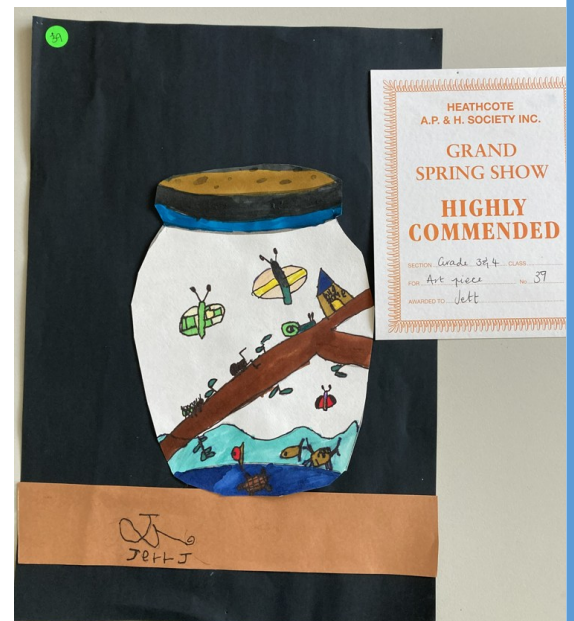


Heathcote Primary School  
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Visual Arts is one of our specialist classes. All grades attend a one hour art lesson each week.



**HEATHCOTE SHOW**  
TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER  
MELBOURNE CUP DAY **2025**



# Cooking - Year 3/4



# School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

AIP Goal 2: To improve student engagement and wellbeing outcomes

Action: Introduce School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program

Our expected behaviours matrix is displayed in all learning areas and the main office. Our values cards are earned by students when they demonstrate expected behaviours. Student leaders collect and count the values cards each week at their leadership meeting and all values cards earned in the week are placed in a tub with two winners randomly drawn out at assembly, earning themselves a 'values voucher'. Congratulations to **Willow** and **Angus** who were Week 5's lucky winners.



**Expected behaviour: We place rubbish in the correct bin**

Each classroom has a recycling tub that is emptied into the bins with yellow lids. On Friday afternoons, monitors from each class empty the classroom tubs into the outside bins ready for 'bin night' on Monday.

The bins with red lids are for non-recyclable rubbish items.



## HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL RESPECT • LEARNING • TEAMWORK • RESPONSIBILITY

	LEARNING		
	ALWAYS	INSIDE	OUTSIDE
RESPECT	We use an appropriate voice	We follow classroom expectations	We leave nature in nature
	We use manners and kind words	We walk	We share our spaces
	We follow instructions		
	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves		
TEAMWORK	We are inclusive	We pack up	We choose teams fairly
	We share		We determine and play by the rules
	We wait our turn		
RESPONSIBILITY	We use equipment for its intended purpose	We use materials for their intended purpose	We return our sports equipment
	We arrive on time	We participate	
	We look after school property		
	We place rubbish in the correct bin		
	We use our 'calm down' strategies		





## Classroom Placement Requests

Classroom placement requests closed on Friday 31st October 2025. Please note that submitting a request does not guarantee that it will be able to be met.

You can read about our classroom placement policy [HERE](#)

## Preparing for 2026—Key Transition Dates

### Foundation 2026 Transition Program:

- Five sessions, starting Friday 17th October (all dates listed on page 15).

### Early October:

- Students and staff reflect on the strengths of Heathcote PS's transition program and identify areas that could be improved. (Family feedback was sought in Term 3 through the Parent/Guardian/Caregiver survey 'positive transition' questions).

### Late October and November:

- Multiple opportunities for students to spend time with their 2026 cohort. These sessions will align with the 2026 Foundation transition session dates and times from Thursday 30th October onwards.
- Foundation—Grade 5 students 'step up' into their 2026 year level for the morning and spend time with their new cohort (but not necessarily in their 2026 grade). These experiences provide an opportunity for students to get to know people who might be in their 2026 grade and work with different teachers. Grade 6 students spend the time completing their own transition program along with organising their graduation.

### November:

- Students asked to nominate five friends they would like to have in their 2026 grade. Students will be guaranteed at least one person from their list (but not necessarily all five). Families invited to complete this list with their child/ren.
- Families invited to complete a 'Get to Know....' one page profile about their child/ren. These will be shared with 2026 classroom teachers before the statewide Transition Day on 9th December.
- Share transition information (both within HPS and between primary and secondary schools, kindergartens and HPS)

### December:

- **Monday 8th December:** Students find out their 2026 class and teacher/s.
- **Tuesday 9th December:** All students spend the day in their 2026 grade with their classmates and teacher/s. Grade 6 students (Year 7 in 2026) attend a statewide transition day at government secondary schools.



# Heathcote Primary School Foundation 2026 Transition Program

Inviting all 2026 Foundation students to join us for a series of transition visits as part of preparing for future school life.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 9:15am – 10:30am

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 9:15am – 11am

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 9:15am – 11am

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 9:15am – 11am

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 9:15am – 12pm\*

Please bring a fruit snack, drink bottle (with water) and broad brimmed hat.

\*Lunch required for the longer day



Heathcote Primary School  
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Phone: (03) 5433 3090

Email: [heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Families are invited to join us for a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits on **Friday 17th October**.  
An opportunity to ask questions and meet fellow families.



# Community



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## Yard Supervision

The school yard is supervised from 8:45am until 9am. There is an announcement at 8:45am to signal classroom doors are open. Students are able to put their bags in their room, complete any before school routines and monitor jobs before heading back outside to play. The hospital end of the oval and playground are out of bounds before school.

After school, staff are on bus and crossing duty (which includes carpark duty in the main carpark). The main yard is not supervised. Any students who have not been collected by 3:15pm are taken to the office.

After school care is available through Trinity Academy. A bus from Heathcote PS drops after school care passengers at Trinity. For bookings, please contact Trinity Academy on [\(03\) 4411 6803](tel:0344116803)



## Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Friday

8:40am—8:55am

HPS Kitchen

Toast, cereal, milk, fruit available



From September to April, everyone needs to wear a plain coloured, broadbrimmed hat when they are outside. This is part of our SunSmart policy. If you need a hat, the office has got you covered...literally! School hats can be purchased from the office for \$10.

## Basketball Clinic

Tuesdays

Weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9

All students will have the opportunity to participate in a basketball clinic as part of PE lessons. This opportunity comes to us through the sporting schools grant (and Mrs Skipper who has organised it for us all—thank you!)



## Newsletter and website article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 List

*This article has been developed by the Department of Education for schools to publish in their newsletter and school website.*

*This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list and our school's closure on a Catastrophic fire danger day in your fire weather district.*

### School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 3** school.**



Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Northern Country fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by **Compass and post on the school's private Facebook group**.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan which includes an identified 'Shelter in Place' location if needed. We have also continued to maintain the school grounds to reduce the fuel load.

### **What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?**

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.



- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our [website](#), by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- [VicEmergency](#) app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- [VicEmergency](#) Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is the department's policy?***

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

### ***Who issues fire danger forecasts?***

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.

# Community



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Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Goal 2: To improve student engagement and wellbeing outcomes

Action: Strengthen the school wide approach to communication with parents/carers/kin, with a focus on communicating how individual learning and wellbeing needs are being identified and supported.



**Heathcote Primary School**

Private group · 117 members

Heathcote Primary School has a Private Group page on Facebook. If you would like to become a member of the group, search for Heathcote Primary School and request to join.

Each request is approved individually. For the safety of our students, there are three questions to ensure that only people directly connected to HPS become members. Requests are usually approved within 72 hours. However, if we are unsure of the connection to the school, there may be a delay whilst we do some research. We may also decline the original request and seek further information. Please don't be offended—our intention is to make sure we can identify each person is directly connected to the school.



**Heathcote Primary**

Admin

Top contributor · 23h ·



Earlier in the year we celebrated our wonderful ES team and today it was time to acknowledge our super teaching team. World Teachers' Day reminds us to pause and celebrate the people who inspire, support and nurture our students each day. Students were asked what they most appreciate about their teachers and shared:

- How they organise cool things for us to do like going to Melbourne and swimming
- Teaching us in a way that we understand because we all learn differently
- Organising ... [See more](#)





# Community



Heathcote Primary School  
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

## Heathcote Christmas Carols

### Performers Wanted

All ages and abilities welcome

Would you like to be a part of the  
Heathcote Christmas Carols?

5:30pm Saturday 13th December

Register your interest by 14th Nov at  
[heathcotechristmascarols@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotechristmascarols@gmail.com)



RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE  
HEATHCOTE SUB-BRANCH  
PO Box 87, HEATHCOTE VIC 3523



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Heathcote 2025

Where will you be at 11 am?

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

10.15 am – Commemoration Service

– in front of the Heathcote RSL Hall.

10.45 am – Wreath Laying Ceremony – Heathcote Cenotaph.

Community and personal wreaths welcome.

11.00 am – Last Post. One minute's silence, Rouse.

11.15 am – Light refreshments inside the Heathcote RSL Hall.

The service involves local veterans, community groups, clergy and schools paying tribute to the great sacrifices made by our veterans, supported by their families and communities throughout our proud history.

Wherever you may be, pause & reflect on their sacrifice.

[heathcote.vic.rsl@gmail.com](mailto:heathcote.vic.rsl@gmail.com)



## FUN IS IN FULL SWING!

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast  
A safe way to have fun and stay active for kids of all abilities.

HEATHCOTE CRICKET CLUB BLAST SESSIONS  
Session 1 – 9/11/2025 Session 2 – 16/9/2025  
Session 3 – 23/11/2025 Session 4 – 30/11/2025  
Session 5 – 7/12/2025 Session 6 – 8/2/2026  
Session 7 – 15/2/2026 Session 8 15/2/2026



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Q Play Cricket

PROUDLY  
PRESENTED BY



## Celebrate the END of an ERA

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELPING DISADVANTAGED KIDS!



**29TH NOV 2025**

**AXEDALE HALL**

**DECORATE YOUR OWN CAKE**

**SWIFTIE TRIVIA**

**SILENT AUCTIONS**

**BEST DRESSED PRIZE!**

**SINGALONGS & PHOTO OPS!**

**Ticket Prices:**  
ADULT: \$28  
CONCESSION: \$21  
CHILD 8-13YR: \$17.50



SCAN HERE

AXEDALE HALL, 94 HIGH STREET

1 - 3:30PM

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/0GIWR](https://www.trybooking.com/0GIWR)



# From the Department of Education

## Protecting against mosquito-borne diseases

Warm and wet weather can result in greater numbers of mosquitoes and an increased risk of illness from mosquito bites. While the overall risk is currently low, some mosquitoes may be carrying diseases that make people sick.

The best protection against mosquito-borne illness is to avoid mosquito bites.

Families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- covering up as much as possible with long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing
- applying insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on exposed skin when outdoors
- limiting outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are active
- clean up and remove containers and items around the home that may hold water where mosquitoes may breed.

Families with any health concerns should see their doctor or phone NURSE-ON-CALL: 1300 606 024 (available 24 hours).

## Free Japanese encephalitis vaccines

Japanese encephalitis virus is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes and can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain.

A free vaccine is available to some individuals to protect Victorians at higher risk of the virus.

For more information, including vaccine eligibility, refer to the Department of Health's [Japanese encephalitis webpage](#).

## Find out more

For more information on protecting against mosquito-borne diseases, families can refer to the following Better Health Channel pages:

[Mosquitoes can carry diseases](#)

[Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease](#), including a handy checklist to help reduce mosquito breeding sites at home and resources translated into other languages.

[Japanese encephalitis virus](#)

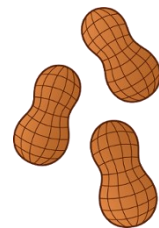
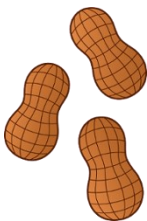


## School Bank Details

**Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account**

**BSB: 083 001**

**ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618**



School and Department policies  
are available on the  
[school website.](#)

## School Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

If you hold a current Healthcare card or a Centrelink pensioner card you may be eligible to apply for CSEF. CSEF provides financial assistance for families to use for camps, excursions and school sports.

If you think you may be eligible, please contact the school office.

# DRINK BOTTLE



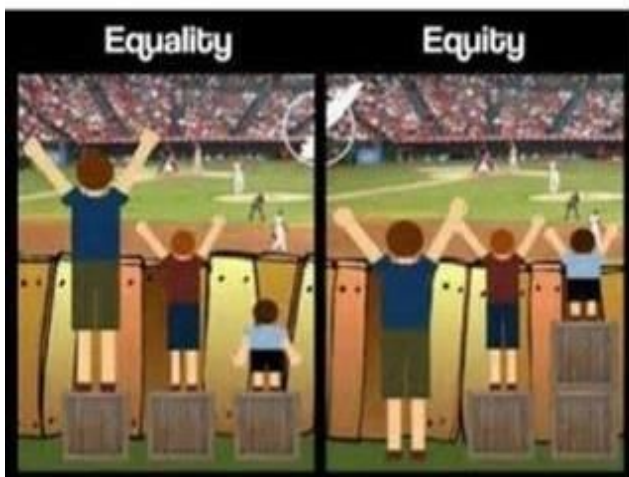
**Remember,  
only WATER  
in your drink  
bottle at school.**



## SCHOLASTIC Book Club LOOP for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club  
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:  
[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)



## PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe  
and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that  
makes you feel unsafe or afraid,  
including anyone in your family,  
anyone at school or anywhere else  
in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your  
school if you feel unsafe.



**Please check your child's hair for any unwelcome visitors. If hair is  
shoulder length, please be sure to tie it up as a preventative strategy.**



### FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

