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# Churchill Campus Newsletter

Issue 1 · 16 Feb 2024

*Work Ethic | Engagement | Relationships | Excellence*

***Kurnai College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we live and work, of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future.***

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# Message from our Campus Principal

## Term 1



Welcome back to all our students, parents/carers and our wider community. I hope you all had a fantastic summer break with family and friends. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students, and their families, who may be starting in year 7 or those that have transferred to us from another school.

I am excited to be back at Churchill Kurnai in the Campus Principal role and look forward to continuing the great work that staff and students have been accomplishing over the course of 2024. The school year has kicked off really positively, with a great vibe across all year levels.

## New staff to the Churchill Team

**Erin Gruis** – returned to Churchill Campus as the Year 7 Team Leader, after spending the last few years in the learning specialist role at our Morwell Campus.

**Ben Kimpton** – returned to us from Morwell campus and has joined the Yr10 team, predominately teaching Humanities and Maths

**Scott Hales** – joined the Year 10 team, with expertise in the English literacy field from New South Wales

**Ryan Mayo** – a past Kurnai student who has joined us from Morwell Central Primary, as a Maths, PE teacher working in the Year 7 Team.

**Paris Werner** – recently returned from teaching overseas to join the year 8 Team, teaching predominately English and Humanities.

**Julie Garden** – Currently on leave, Julie returns in semester two and will bring a wealth of experience back to Churchill, where she spent many years working prior to her time at the University Campus.

We also have a number of new education support staff joining our team for 2024 which we are really excited about too.

**Will Kennedy**

**Jay McGown**

**James Tattnell**

**Sam Pollerd**

**Lisa McKay**

## Our Leadership Team for 2024

- **Reece Malcolmson** - Campus Principal
- **Jayde Werner Duffield** - School Improvement Principal Churchill
- **Erin Gruis** - Year 7 Team Leader
- **Matt Suter** - Year 8 Team Leader
- **Darren Campbell** - Year 9 Team Leader
- **Todd Miller** - Year 10 Team Leader

## Learning Specialists

**Michelle Reid**

**Kara Thompson**

**Julia Groves**

## Wellbeing & Advocates

Our student wellbeing team consists of **Selena Gray, Jacob Hibbert, Hannah Brock**, together with our advocate team made up of **Tom Kindellan, Paula Woodland, Robin Fitzpatrick, Angela Knersch** and **Will Kennedy**.

## Office Staff

Our friendly team in the office are always here to support you via phone or in person so if you have any questions or need to know who best to talk to regarding anything school based, come in or give them a call and they will be only too happy to help.

Office Staff – **Fi, Narelle, Mel, Claire & Kim**

## Photos

School Photos were taken last Thursday 8th of February. All families should have received an access key password via compass to place an order via the website online (also in compass notification). If you did not receive this or would like further information, please contact the team at the front office.

## Uniform and Devices

We are working really hard to have all our students in the correct uniform with the equipment they require in order to be successful throughout the school day. Team Leaders are working in the background to identify students who are currently without a laptop or need ICT support, if your child is without a laptop and you need help, please contact your child's year level team leader. As a school we are committed to supporting students and families in any way possible to ensure that they are in correct uniform. We are asking parents/carers and families to support us and to let us know if there is something we can do to help.

Please have a look at the 'Calendar of Events' page to see all of the upcoming important dates for our school.

**Reece Malcomson**

Churchill Campus Principal



# Calendar Of Events

## Key Dates

<b>Term 1, 2024</b>	
Wednesday, 21 Feb	College Council Nominations Open
Wednesday, 22 & Thursday 23 Feb	Year 7 Tech School Excursions
Monday, 26 Feb - Friday, 1 Mar	Year 8 Karoonda Camp
Tuesday, 27 Feb	College Athletics
Wednesday, 6 - Friday 8 Mar	Year 9 Outdoor
Wednesday, 13 - Friday 15 Mar	Year 10 Outdoor Ed Surf camp
Thursday, 28 March	End of Term 1

<b>Term 2, 2024</b>	
Monday, 15 April	Start of Term 2
Tuesday, 23 April	Year 7 &10 Immunisations

## College Key Contacts

For a full list of college-wide key contacts please go to:



# Year 7 News

## Term 1



The students in year 7 have had a successful and very busy transition to high school. In the classrooms, teachers have been focusing on entry routines and the students have been challenging teachers to remember their names to greet them at the door.

## KPA's

Our Kurnai Positive Acknowledgements (KPA's) have been exceeding 100 per day, I think that's a school record! In year 7, I set a goal for our second week to reach 500 KPA's in 5 days, the students took up the challenge and achieved 565 KPA's resulting in a hot chip lunch to celebrate their effort and achievement.



## Year 7 BBQ

It was such a wonderful afternoon, on Thursday 8th Feb, for our Meet and Greet BBQ. We had some fantastic lawns games happening and live music thanks to the Kurnai School Band. Paula and Mr White cooked a feast of burgers and sausages, and the weather was perfect for the year 7 team and teachers to get to know parents and check in with any questions. The afternoon was truly a credit to the year 7 team, our advocate team and our education support staff who all contributed to making the afternoon a success. Thanks to everyone who came and helped out!





SRC

During homegroup, each class nominated 2 SRC representatives. The whole cohort then voted on the 8 nominees. The year 7 Team was so impressed by the candidates and how responsible the students were with their nominations, that the team decided to have 8 SRC representatives/ year 7 level leaders! Congratulations to Liam Thomson, Molly Mulder, Declan Morley, Riley Ottey, Ebby Griffiths, Tyler Aarons, Lachy Lindsay and Blake Russel the year 7 2024 SRC representatives and student leaders.



#### **A few messages from our SRC members:**

*Our first week was great, the PE teachers are nice, Ms Gruis is kind, Mr White is a great maths teacher. The second week was as amazing as the first, Woods is great, Mr DeSouza is really great for People and Me. I hope you all have enjoyed it as much as me – Riley.*

*I have really enjoyed my first 2 weeks of Highschool. I was also really nervous on my first day, but now I have settled in and I reckon I can take on anything – Lachy.*

*I have really enjoyed the first few weeks at Churchill Kurnai. Coming in I was really excited, but now I am settled, and I think it is a really good school – Liam.*

*The first two weeks at school were scary and exciting. I have met many new friends and people who have made Highschool really fun and enjoyable – Molly.*

## **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN is now in Term 1 for year 7 and year 9 students and is completed entirely online. At Kurnai we believe in “doing our best on the NAPLAN test”, this means we might be doing

some practice and exposure activities to build familiarity and comfort with the layout and format of the test.

These activities are designed to encourage and support students in knowing “what to expect” on the day and reduce testing anxiety with some low stakes practice and hints and tips on how to use the software work out any problems before the testing situation and really enable us to create a positive environment for students to feel confident. We don't believe in “teaching to the test” and be assured this is not what we are doing, we just want our students to know what to expect and feel prepared.

## Tech School

Next week, on the 22nd and 23rd of February classes will be attending the Morwell Tech School for a 'Tech Taster'. Students will be catching buses to the tech school leaving Churchill at 8:45am and returning at 2:30pm. Students will need to bring a backpack with a snack, packed lunch, and drink bottle on the day.

## Athletics Day

On the 27th of February we have our college Athletics Day. Students will catch buses to and from the Joe Carmody Athletics track Newborough. Students are allowed to wear their team colours (if you're not sure it is listed on their compass page) and dress up if they wish to. Lunch is provided on the day and the canteen will also be open. There are both competitive and non-competitive events on the day including water balloon throws, three legged races and limbo.

## Immunisations

Year 7 and Year 10 secondary school students can receive free immunisations as part of the National Immunisation Program. Vaccines given as part of the Secondary School Immunisation Program are delivered in school settings by nurse immunisers from Latrobe City Council Immunisation Team.

You will receive information in the mail about providing or declining your consent for your child to be immunised. You will be asked to do this online, through the Central Immunisation Records Victoria (CIRV) portal. Paper consent forms are also available from school if unable



to complete online. Your child can also receive immunisations at your GP or Latrobe City Council immunisation service.

Online consent forms:

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year7vaccine](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year7vaccine)[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year10vaccine](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year10vaccine)

Learn more about the Secondary School Immunisation Program in Victoria at:

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools)

## Mobile Phone Policy and School Uniform

Year 7 students have been doing a sensational job of keeping their mobile phones in their lockers for the day. Just a friendly reminder, that the Departmental Policy is that students are not to have mobile phones during school hours. This means that if you need to reach your child, please contact the front office and they will facilitate any messages, collect students, notify teachers of any arrangements that need to be made.

This term we have also been impressed with students' uniform, students have been doing a great job taking hats off inside and not hiding under hoods! We are supporting some students to access navy shorts/pants as they are arriving in black which is not school uniform. Also, a quick reminder students need a separate top for PE classes, if you do not own a specific PE shirt, any Kurnai polo is acceptable. If you require assistance purchasing uniform, please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

## BYOD

IT challenges have been keeping us on our toes and the recent "weather event" reminded us all how much we rely on being connected. If you need support purchasing a device/computer, please get in touch and we can discuss options to ensure all students have access to technology in the classroom.

**Erin Gruis**

Year 7 Team Leader



# Year 8 News

## Term 1



Hello everyone and welcome back to the school year. I would like to begin by introducing myself, Matthew Suter, as the Year 8 Team Leader. I am excited to be working with the Year 8 cohort this year. Having taught most of the cohort as their cooking teacher last year I'm looking forward to building on the positives we experienced and supporting them in a greater variety of areas to have as successful a year as possible.

There will be lots of things for our students to look forward to this year and I can't wait to see the great things that our students will achieve throughout the year. I look forward to connecting with you all during the year ahead.

At each of our assemblies I share a quote with our cohort. The quote reads:

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception; it is a prevailing attitude" (Colin Powell)

## KPA's

I have challenged the Year 8's to be the best they can be and one of the measures we use to track this is Kurnai Positive Acknowledgements (KPA's). Last year our average for the cohort was 140 KPA's per week. This year most of our students have made a strong start with our week 1 KPA's total of 322 and they continued that work by increasing our KPA's to 479 in week 2. This data supports the feedback that a lot of staff have given me about the start our Year 8 students have made. Our new challenge is to now maintain our efforts while striving to demonstrate more of the positive learning habits we have shown at the start of the year. They have shown they can do it, now they have to continue to show it. We will shortly be releasing

our first round of LBU's and I can't wait to see how our Year 8's rise to the challenge and maintain these good learning behaviours.

## Camp

On the 26th of February our Year 8 students will be heading up to Gelantipy to Karoonda Park for a 5-day camp. During this time, they will get the opportunity to participate in many great experiences, such as canoeing, horse riding, caving, hiking and much more. This will be a great time for our kids to develop stronger relationships within the cohort, all while participating in activities they wouldn't do in a typical week. It will be lot's of fun and I can't wait until we get up there.

## Concerns or queries

If you have any concerns or queries about any of the items mentioned above, Year 8 student matters, or just general inquiries, please do not hesitate to give the year 8 team a call on 51323700 or email Matthew Suter.

[Matthew.Suter@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Suter@education.vic.gov.au)

**Matt Suter**

Year 8 Team Leader



# Year 9 News

## Term 1



The Year 9 Team would like to **welcome parents, guardians and our students** to the new school year. 'Home', at school, is in the Science Building, a bright space with the team office just a few steps away from lockers. Teacher desks circle the office encouraging open, positive communication about where students are at and what we can do to step-up their focus on and enjoyment of learning.

## The 'climate' so far

Assemblies so far have praised students for their smooth settling back into the classroom and our appreciation of their mutual respect and willingness to participate in calm conversation, aimed at sorting out anything that might be getting in the way of students' best effort. It's hard to believe we meet again, already two years since students arrived nervously to Year 7.

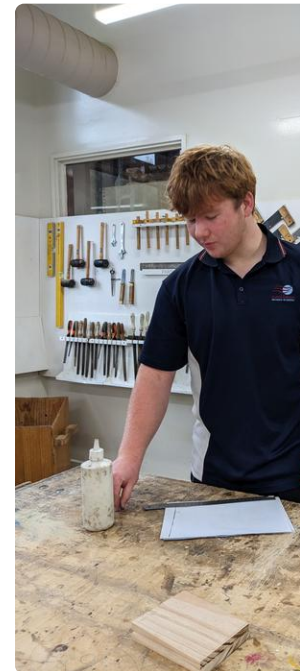




## An Important Tool Kit and Relationship

We aim to keep in touch with families to ensure students have the necessary gear. This includes a charged laptop, workbook for every subject, a pencil case with pens, pencils, ruler and any subject-specific equipment. Sorry if this sounds a little obvious, but if students forget, lose things or don't bring these items to class, this severely impacts on learning.

At Year 9 level, students may find themselves representing Kurnai in sport or music, working with equipment in practical subjects, setting an example for younger students and perhaps thinking about a part-time job sometime soon. So, following rules about arriving at class on time for example, and wearing the correct uniform are essential life skills. We hope the way we greet students, our first conversation each day won't be about what is missing or making the responsible choice, but more about building trusting, supportive relationships this year.



## Learning Behaviour Report Scores

Students have recently reflected on their Learning Behaviours in Homegroup time. This involves **comparing the score** they achieved in each subject in November last year with each **student's predicted score** for the learning behaviour skills released in Week 4. Student predictions will then be compared to their **actual achievement**. The Year 9 Team have discussed strategies to ensure students are working to the best of their ability which is likely to include setting goals, class monitoring, differentiating work and Team Leader interviews with students. Importantly, we're looking forward to celebrating best effort scores in Week 5.





**Darren Campbell**

Year 9 Team Leader



## Year 10 News

Term 1



Welcome to what will be a very busy year! We have certainly hit the ground running at Year 10.

Year 10 is the year of endless opportunities.

**Term 1** will focus on supporting students to explore and prepare themselves for work experience (more details below).

**Term 2** is when students will spend two weeks in their work placements. Work experience will run from Monday 6th to Friday 17th May. Term 2 will also be where students start exploring and choosing their preferred pathway for 2025 (Course Counselling).

**Term 3** will see our '2024 Trip to Tassie' camp which is a highlight for many and great way to make memories to keep of the year. Excursion forms and further information will come out shortly.

While in **Term 4** students who nominated to enrol in a VET course for 2025 will complete an orientation day at the TAFE campus for their chosen VET course. Students will also celebrate their last moments at the junior campus with the Year 10 formal.

In between all of this there will be opportunities to participate in the Trade Pathway Program (to be confirmed), as well as spend time exploring university courses through the Fed Uni Experience Days.

Your child will be supported by a very experienced team of teachers. You are encouraged to contact any member of the team with regards to the progress of your child, as well as any questions you have with regards to Work Experience, Course Counselling or any of the programs offered throughout the year.

## ADF career presentation

Tuesday a visit from the ADF to discuss career opportunities within the Defence Force. Students gained valuable insight into the different areas of the Defence Force and career pathways. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions with the officers. We are very grateful for the ADF in giving up their time to come in and providing this opportunity to our students, and we thank them for their support. Thanks to Suze Benson and the Careers Team for organising this opportunity. Some photos of the day are below.



## School Captains

Our School Captains for 2024 are Arabella Altavaz, Harry Forbes, and Claire Lindsay. Congratulations to you all.

## Immunisations

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[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools)

## Expectations and Attendance

With such a busy program and students representing the school in local workplaces across our region, Kurnai College has high expectations of all student's behaviour in ways which reflect our values.

The Year 10 team will continually communicate to the students on the expectations of attendance, behaviours and wearing correct uniform. Staff will acknowledge these behaviours with Positive Acknowledgement messages home.

We appreciate your support on these matters and this week draw your attention to notifying the school if your child is absent and signing out your child from the front office if you collect your child early from school.

**Todd Miller**

Year 10 Team Leader





# College News

## School Values

Kurnai College's four pillars underpin all aspects of our work.

  <p><b>Excellence</b></p> <p>We do the best that we can do</p>	  <p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>We actively participate in our own learning</p>	  <p><b>Work Ethic</b></p> <p>We are committed to working hard</p>	  <p><b>Relationships</b></p> <p>We value and respect each other</p>
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## School Council Elections

As we embark on another academic year, we are calling on current parents and students who are passionate about education, community involvement, and making a positive impact on our school to consider nominating themselves to the School Council.

You do not need any special experience to be on council, each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role. However, it is important to have an interest in our school and the desire to work in partnership to help shape our school's future.

### *Notice of Election and Call for Nominations*

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Kurnai College.

Nominations open on **Wednesday, 21 February** with nomination forms available from each campus office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024**.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 March, 2024.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026	3
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026	2
Student member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

**ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE**

a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday, 21 February, 2024
b)	Closing date for nominations	Wednesday, 28 February, 2024



c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday, 7 March, 2024
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday 11 March, 2024
e)	Close of ballot	Tuesday, 15 March, 2024
f)	Vote count	Wednesday, 16 March, 2024
g)	Declaration of poll	Wednesday, 16 March, 2024
h)	Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)	Tuesday, 19 March, 2024
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Tuesday, 19 March, 2024

## Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our [Privacy Policy](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365 safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- \* Amharic
- \* Arabic
- \* Dari
- \* Gujarati
- \* Mandarin

- \* Somali
- \* Sudanese
- \* Turkish
- \* Urdu
- \* Vietnamese



# General Information

2024 Student Booklist

VCE Books for Sale Second Hand for 2023-2024



Books for sale second hand 2023-24.docx

Sustainable School Shop



## Immunisations

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Online consent forms:

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year7vaccine](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year7vaccine) [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year10vaccine](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/year10vaccine)

Learn more about the Secondary School Immunisation Program in Victoria at:

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools)

Buy and Sell  
Second-hand Textbooks



Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website  
- [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)
- A subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Kurnai College

Second-hand textbook trading system

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's booklists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
  - Exactly the right items to buy
  - Who has the most items you need
  - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
- Excellent email and telephone helplines are provided:  
0438 743 444

Also Buy & Sell

- Calculators
- Sporting items
- Musical items
- Electronics & DVD's
- Stationery
- And lots more

Pricing Guide

- |             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| • Like New  | 70% |
| • Excellent | 60% |
| • Very Good | 50% |
| • Good      | 40% |

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)  
ABN 55 114 136 211

Helpful tips

- Be patient many new items are listed each day
- Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time
- Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a quicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities

Homework Club

# After School Homework Club

## LET'S LEARN TOGETHER!

Bring your school work for any subject area such as:

Mathematics  
Science  
English  
Humanities  
Reading and Writing  
Learning Skills  
And more!

We will supply snacks and helpful teachers.



WEDNESDAY 3PM-4PM  
IN THE LIBRARY  
NO BOOKING REQUIRED



## Lost Property

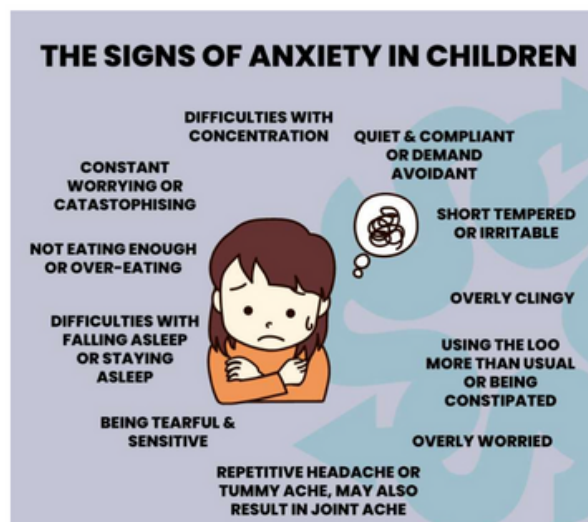
We have a large amount of un-named student uniform in lost property.

If you are missing any hoodies, jackets or jumpers, please come up to the office and take a look through the lost property pile.

## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support



It's a good time to reflect on the year that's nearing its end. If you think this might describe the child in your care, contact the school to meet with the Team Leader to develop a plan for the coming year.



## Uniform Information

### Kurnai College Uniform Statement Years 7 to 10

**School Uniforms are available from Lowes Store, Mid Valley Shopping Centre, Morwell  
or may be ordered online at:**

[www.lowes.com.au](http://www.lowes.com.au)

Layby & Pre-Layby options are available.

**ALL SEASONS UNIFORM**



DRESS:	Summer Dress	SKIRT:
	College Check and Pleated	
POLO:	Burgundy/Navy Short Sleeve - Logo	
SHORTS:	Navy Microfibre	
HOODIE:	Navy/Sky - Logo	
JACKET:	Showerproof - Logo	
JACKET:	Navy Puffer Jacket	
SOCKS:	Navy Ankle	
TIGHTS:	Navy Opaques	
CAP:	Navy baseball cap	

**SPORT UNIFORM** (Compulsory – only to be worn for Sport/PE)

POLO:	Navy/White Coolmesh – Logo
SHORTS:	Navy Coolmesh

***ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION***

- Please note we are transitioning to the new Kurnai logo on uniform items. This will be a gradual transition as current logo stock is exhausted. Students can continue to wear uniform items with the old logo.

\*\* Plain Navy Blue or White long sleeve t-shirts are allowed to be worn under the College Polo Shirt.

***Footwear***

Black shoes with black laces.

White socks with summer dress or shorts.

No thongs, sandals, slides or open shoes are to be worn.

Steel cap boots will only be worn and allowed for the duration of specific technology classes.

***Headwear***

Navy blue baseball cap with college logo, or navy blue broad-brimmed hat or any navy blue cap/hat, without a brand name/logo.

### ***Sport and PE classes***

Students are required to change for Sport and PE classes.

### ***Jewellery***

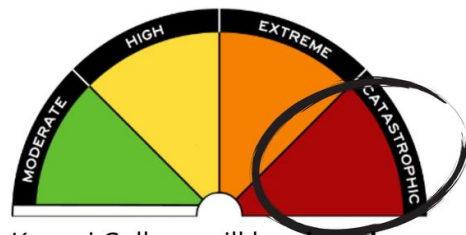
Jewellery should be safe and discreet. Students may be asked to remove or use tape to cover jewellery during sport classes to prevent injury.

### ***Make-up***

Make-up is permitted but should be discreet.

## Code Red Fire Danger

A reminder to all families, that on days of **Code Red** in the West & South Gippsland Fire Zone, all campuses will be closed. This is a change to previous years, and we ask families to be aware of this in preparation.



Kurnai College will be **closed** on days of **Catastrophic (Code Red)** Fire Rating

**Kurnai College University and Churchill Junior Campuses are on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.**



## Kumai College University and Churchill Junior Campuses are on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

### School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).



All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **West and South Gippsland**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan our staff continue to maintain our grounds.

### What does this mean for our school?

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 at our Churchill Campuses only.**

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating West and South Gippsland fire district**.

### What is the department's policy?

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.

### When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in West and South Gippsland fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding

potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass and SMS Message.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. 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.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

***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 [www.kurnai.co](http://www.kurnai.co)
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is - relocated, undertaking learning from home and/or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a 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.

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



# Community News

Get \$200 to help your child play sport!

getactive.vic.gov.au

THE STUDIO

After school hang for young people aged 12 to 16!

Join us during school term to get creative in our pop-up makerspaces or just come along to hang out.

- Range of arts and crafts materials
- 'How-to' session from our friendly library crew.
- Non-stop hot chocs!
- Safe and inclusive place to chill or create

Activities and materials available include:

- Tie-dye t-shirts
- Zine making
- Jewellery 101
- Air dry pottery
- Nail polish station
- Painting
- Collage

Or tell us what you want to do!

**Moe Library**  
Tuesdays from 3.45pm to 5pm

**Traralgon Library**  
Wednesdays from 3.45pm to 5pm

LatrobeCity

PODCAST WORKSHOPS

for young adults

Join us for a four-week introduction to podcasting in our Moe studio.

These workshops are suitable for young adults aged 12 to 17. The program will give you the skills and confidence to start your storytelling journey.

- What is a podcast and how to plan yours.
- How to record (with tips and tricks for sounding great).
- How to make editing easy.
- How to share your pod with the world.

Find out more at the library or visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au)

**WHERE AND WHEN**

Moe Library  
Wednesdays  
14, 21, 28 February and  
6 March  
4.30pm to 6.30pm

Places limited. Book at Eventbrite. Bookings required.

LatrobeCity

GAMING CLUB

After school social gaming for young people

- Love to game and hang out with your mates?
- Heaps of games to choose from!
- Drop in any time during the session.
- Snacks provided.

**Moe Library: PS5**  
Mondays 3.30pm to 5pm (ages 8 to 12)  
Tuesdays 3.30pm to 5pm (ages 13 to 17)

**Traralgon Library: Xbox**  
Thursdays 4pm to 5pm (ages 8 to 17)

Sessions run through school term.  
Bookings preferred.

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS.

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Sat 24th Feb @ 1pm & 7pm

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Sat 2nd Mar @ 1pm & 7pm

Sun 3rd Mar @ 1pm

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CHILDREN \$25 EACH (AGES 3 - 14)

(Ringside extra \$5 each)

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